

Safety equipment for Queensland regulated ships (boats and PWC)

All equipment must be in good working order, and not past the expiry date for replacement or service (EPIRB, fire extinguisher, flares and inflatable lifejackets)

- Boats not requiring registration means Queensland regulated ships with an engine or auxiliary under 3 kW (4 hp). Requirements or recommendations listed also apply to international or interstate boats operating in Queensland.
- Boats requiring registration means Queensland regulated ships with an engine or auxiliary of 3 kW or more (over 4 hp). Requirements or recommendations listed also apply to international or interstate boats operating in Queensland.
- Tenders do not require registration if operated within 2 nautical miles (nm) of the primary boat. Tenders that do not require registration are not required to carry safety equipment other than a light for signalling. It is highly recommended that operators equip a tender with safety equipment appropriate to the location of operation.
- PWC means personal watercraft, for example a jet ski.
- Required means equipment that must be carried. Recommended means equipment that is suggested to be carried to meet the general safety obligation.

Item	Smooth water			Partially smooth waters			Beyond smooth and partially smooth waters		
	Not requiring registration	Registered*	PWC	Not requiring registration	Registered*	PWC	Not requiring registration ^o	Registered*	PWC ^o
EPIRB (406 MHz) Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. When operating more than 2 nm from land. Must be registered with AMSA. Registration must be renewed every two years.							required	required	required
Signalling device for example a torch, or fluorescent light, or lantern or cyalume stick. Required when operating between sunset and sunrise.	required	required	required	required	required	required	required	required	required
Lifejackets[#] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the appropriate size for each person (12 months old and over) on board, except if a person is wearing an inflatable diver jacket and the vessel is engaged in diving activities. • Children under 12 must wear the lifejacket when underway in an open boat under 4.8 m. • Skiers or people being towed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Level 50 or level 50 special purpose, or wetsuit with inbuilt flotation approved as level 50 special purpose in smooth waters. + Level 50 in partially smooth waters. 	Level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose recommended	Level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose required	Level 50 or level 50 special purpose required	Level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 recommended	Level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 required	Level 50 required	Level 275, 150 or 100 recommended	Level 275, 150 or 100 required	Level 50 required
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the boat has level flotation**, and grab handles, lines or a secure hold for each person onboard, a lifejacket is not required in a river, creek or stream, or waters contained within breakwaters or revetments.^ • Lifejacket not required for a registered* tender if used within 1 km of the primary boat and tender has a level flotation statement** in the approved form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifejackets must be worn when crossing designated bars in open boats under 4.8 m. • Lifejackets not required for a registered* tender if used within 1 km of the primary boat and tender has a level flotation statement** in the approved form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifejackets must be worn when crossing designated bars in open boats under 4.8 m. • Lifejackets not required for a registered* tender if used within 500 m of the primary boat and tender has a level flotation statement** in the approved form. 				
V sheet				recommended	required	required [^]	recommended	required	required [^]
Flares two red hand flares and two orange smoke flares.				recommended	required	required [^]	recommended	required	required [^]
Fire fighting equipment all boats over 5 m. Must be capable of extinguishing a fire quickly and effectively.	recommended	required		recommended	required		recommended	required	
Navigation chart and a liquid damped compass appropriate to the operational area, or other directional finding or positioning equipment. For a PWC without a chart or compass, an electronic navigation device appropriate to the operational area.				recommended	recommended	recommended [^]	recommended	recommended	recommended [^]
Anchoring For boats less than 5 m, the cable can be chain or rope. For boats over 5 m, the cable can be chain of at least 2 m attached to anchor and rope. Length of chain/rope should be appropriate for the depth of water you are anchoring in. For a PWC, an anchor and cable appropriate to area of operation.	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	recommended [^]	recommended	recommended	recommended [^]
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m, one anchor with 18m cable • 5m to less than 8m, one anchor with 27m cable • 8m and over, two anchors with 37 m cable each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m, one anchor with 27m cable • 5m to less than 8m, one anchor with 27m cable • 8m and over, two anchors with 37m cable each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m, one anchor with 27m cable • 5m to less than 8m, one anchor with 27m cable • 8m and over, two anchors with 37m cable each 				
Pumping/bailing equipment	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m: suitable bailing equipment • 5m to less than 8m: bilge pump 45L/min capacity • 8m and over: bilge pump 70L/min capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m: suitable bailing equipment • 5m to less than 8m: bilge pump 45L/min capacity • 8m and over: bilge pump 70L/minute capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m: suitable bailing equipment • 5m to less than 8m: bilge pump 45L/min capacity • 8m and over: bilge pump 70L/min capacity 				
Secondary propulsion[±] (boats under 6m)	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	
Drinking water enough for everyone on board for the trip	recommended	recommended	recommended	recommended	recommended	recommended [^]	recommended	recommended	recommended [^]

Further information to accompany table:

* Also includes boats/tenders that are required to be registered but are not.

** A level flotation statement in the approved form, is an Australian Builders Plate that indicates the boat has level flotation.

^ Does not apply to a PWC operating in an approved aquatic event or beyond partially smooth waters and within 0.5 nautical miles from land.

^^ This exception will no longer apply to registered boats (other than personal watercraft or tenders) from 1 June 2024.

Owners/masters must give each person on board information about where the safety equipment is kept. Lifejackets must be clearly visible to passengers or readily accessible and indicated by a clearly visible sign with a white background marked with the word 'lifejackets' in red letters or vice versa.

° Lightweight craft are permitted to substitute an EPIRB with a PLB. The PLB must float, be registered with AMSA, be GPS enabled, be worn by the operator, in service and comply with the Australian Standard. Lightweight Craft are off the beach type craft, human powered canoe and kayak, small sailing vessels (less than 6m in length) and personal watercraft.

± Oars, paddles or another secondary means of propulsion.