

Marine Information Bulletin

Safety equipment and registration requirements for tenders to Queensland regulated ships

Purpose

This Marine Information Bulletin clarifies safety equipment and registration requirements for tenders to Queensland regulated ships.

What is a tender?

A tender is a boat that is not a lifeboat, is 6m or less in length and is smaller than the parent ship.

It can only be used to transport people or provisions between the ship and shore or ship to ship.

Registration

Tenders to Queensland regulated ships are exempt from registration if they are only used within 2 nautical miles (nm) of the parent ship.

Refer to Table 1 for more information.

Safety equipment

A tender that is required to be registered must carry lifejackets and other safety equipment stipulated under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2016. For other tenders, carrying safety equipment is highly recommended.

Table 2 and Table 3 are lists of safety equipment to be carried on board the tender.

Signalling device

All tenders operating between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with navigation lights and a lighting device for signalling to attract attention.

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

All tenders operating beyond partially smooth waters and more than 2nm from land must be equipped with a 406MHz EPIRB that is registered with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

Recommended miscellaneous equipment

It is recommended that all tenders carry the miscellaneous equipment outlined in Table 3 to meet their general safety obligation.

Compliance with the general safety obligation

Operators of all boats including tenders are required to comply with the general safety obligation as per the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.

The owner/master of a boat must not operate the boat unless the boat is safe. A boat is safe if it is seaworthy, and is appropriately equipped and crewed for the voyage.

Table 1 – Registration requirements for 6m or less tenders

Engine Power	Operating radius from parent ship	Requires registration?
less than 3 kW	any distance	NO
3 kW or more	less than 2 nautical miles* (nm) (3.7km)	NO
3 kW or more	2nm (3.7km) or more	YES

Table 2 – Safety and miscellaneous equipment for tenders required to be registered

Item	Smooth waters	Partially smooth waters	Beyond partially smooth waters
Lifejacket for each person on board* <i>(level 50, 100, 150, 275 or level 50 special purpose)</i>	Required		
Lifejacket for each person on board* <i>(level 100, 150, 275 or level 50)</i>		Required	
Lifejacket for each person on board* <i>(level 100, 150, 275)</i>			Required
Signalling device if operating at between sunset and sunrise <i>(torch, lantern, fluorescent light or cyalume stick. Waterproof and buoyant options are best.)</i>	Required	Required	Required
Navigation Lights <i>(between sunset and sunrise)</i>	Required	Required	Required
EPIRB <i>(406 MHz)</i>			Required
Flares <i>(2 red hand-held and 2 orange smoke)</i>		Required	Required
Fire fighting equipment <i>(if tender is more than 5m in length, capable of extinguishing a fire quickly and effectively)</i>	Required	Required	Required
V sheet		Required	Required
Anchoring <i>(type and weight of anchor must be appropriate for the conditions)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender less than 5m, the cable can be chain or rope. Tender 5m or more, the cable can be a chain or a chain of at least 2m attached to the anchor and a rope. 	Recommended <i>One anchor with at least:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18m of cable if less than 5m 27m of cable if 5m – 6m 	Recommended <i>One anchor with at least 27m of cable</i>	Recommended <i>One anchor with at least 27m of cable</i>
Navigation <i>(a compass and a navigation chart)</i>		Recommended	Recommended
Drinking water	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
Handheld electronic navigation device <i>(if not equipped with a chart and compass)</i>			
Manual propulsion for boats under 6m <i>(oars or paddles)</i>	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
Pumping or bailing equipment <i>(for a tender 5m – 6m, a pump or other bailing equipment with a minimum capacity of 45L per minute)</i>	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended

Table 3 – Safety and miscellaneous equipment for tenders not required to be registered

Item	Smooth waters	Partially smooth waters	Beyond partially smooth waters
Lifejacket for each person on board* <i>(level 50, 100, 150, 275 or level 50 special purpose)</i>	Recommended		
Lifejacket for each person on board* <i>(level 100, 150, 275 or level 50)</i>		Recommended	
Lifejacket for each person on board* <i>(level 100, 150, 275)</i>			Recommended
Signalling device if operating at between sunset and sunrise <i>(torch, lantern, fluorescent light or cyalume stick. Waterproof and buoyant options are best.)</i>	Required	Required	Required
Navigation Lights <i>(between sunset and sunrise)</i>	Required	Required	Required
EPIRB <i>(406 MHz)</i>			Required
Flares <i>(2 red hand-held and 2 orange smoke)</i>		Recommended	Recommended
Fire fighting equipment <i>(if tender is more than 5m in length, capable of extinguishing a fire quickly and effectively)</i>	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
V sheet		Recommended	Recommended
Anchoring <i>(type and weight of anchor must be appropriate for the conditions)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender less than 5m, the cable can be chain or rope. • Tender 5m or more, the cable can be a chain or a chain of at least 2m attached to the anchor and a rope. 	Recommended <i>One anchor with at least:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18m of cable if less than 5m • 27m of cable if 5m – 6m 	Recommended <i>One anchor with at least 27m of cable</i>	Recommended <i>One anchor with at least 27m of cable</i>
Navigation <i>(a compass and a navigation chart)</i>		Recommended	Recommended
Drinking water	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
Handheld electronic navigation device <i>(if not equipped with a chart and compass)</i>			
Manual propulsion for boats under 6m <i>(oars or paddles)</i>	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
Pumping or bailing equipment <i>(for a tender 5m – 6m, a pump or other bailing equipment with a minimum capacity of 45L per minute)</i>	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended

*Additional Information

Lifejackets

A lifejacket is not required in smooth or partially smooth waters if the tender has a positive flotation statement and is operating either:

- Within 1km of the parent ship
- In a river, creek, stream, or the waters contained within breakwater or revetments and is equipped with grab lines, grab rails, or other permanent means of giving each person on board a way of keeping a secure hold to the tender.

A lifejacket not required beyond partially smooth waters when the tender has a positive flotation statement and is operating within 500m of the parent ship.

Marking tenders

If the tender is not required to be registered it must be marked on the exterior with the word 'tender' and the parent ship registration number, at least 75mm high.

Lifejackets - wear them!

If a lifejacket is required to be carried, it must be worn in the following situations:

- when boating alone (or accompanied only by children under 12) in an open boat of less than 4.8m while underway
- between sunset and sunrise while underway in an open boat of less than 4.8m
- when crossing a designated coastal bar in an open boat of any length, or an open area of a boat of any length
- children between 1 and 12 years when in an open boat of any length, or an open area of a boat, while underway.

If a lifejacket is not required but recommended to be carried, it is also recommended that they be worn in the same situations.

Further information

For further information contact your local Maritime Safety Queensland office:

Airlie Beach	4841 4500
Bundaberg	4132 6600
Cairns	4052 7400
Gladstone	4971 5200
Hervey Bay	4194 9600
Mackay	4944 3700
Mooloolaba	5452 1825
Brisbane	3632 7500
Gold Coast	5585 1810
Townsville	4421 8100

Other Marine Information Bulletins about the safe operation of boats are on Maritime Safety Queensland's website: www.msq.qld.gov.au