

Safety equipment for recreational boats and personal watercraft (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 life jackets).

- Boats not requiring registration means recreational boats 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 recreational boats 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. Operators should consider equipping 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	Registered*	PWC
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
EPIRBs must have a printed expiry date and be replaced or serviced by the manufacturer (or authorised service agent) by this date; must comply with Australian Standard AS/NZ 4280.1:2003; and must be registered in the name of the owner/master with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.									
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
Personal flotation devices (PFDs)/life jackets[#] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the appropriate size for each person (12 months 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 PFD when underway in an open boat under 4.8 m. Skiers or people being towed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + PFD type 2, 3 or level 50 or level 50 special purpose, or wetsuit with inbuilt flotation approved as PFD type 3 in smooth waters. + PFD type 2 or level 50 in partially smooth waters. 	PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose recommended	PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose required	PFD type 2 or 3 or level 50 or level 50 special purpose required	PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 recommended	PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 required	PFD type 2 or level 50 required	PFD type 1 or level 275, 150 or 100 recommended	PFD type 1 or level 275, 150 or 100 required	PFD type 2 or level 50 required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the boat has positive 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 PFD not required for a registered* tender to a recreational boat if used within 1 km of the primary boat and tender has a positive flotation statement** in the approved form. 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFDs must be worn when crossing designated bars in open boats under 4.8 m. PFD not required for a registered* tender to a recreational boat if used within 1 km of the primary boat and tender has a positive flotation statement** in the approved form. 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFDs must be worn when crossing designated bars in open boats under 4.8 m. PFD not required for a registered* tender to a recreational boat if used within 500 m of the primary boat and tender has a positive 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	
RideSmart sticker must be visible from steering position.			required			required			required
Capacity label except sailing ships. Must be visible from all steering positions.		required	required		required	required		required	required
Capacity label can be either an Australian Builders Plate or a label issued by Maritime Safety Queensland. Not required for international or interstate boats operating in Queensland.									
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 5 m, one anchor with 18 m cable 5-8 m, one anchor with 27 m cable over 8 m, two anchors with 37 m cable each 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> less than 5 m, one anchor with 27 m cable 5-8 m, one anchor with 27 m cable over 8 m, two anchors with 37 m cable each 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> less than 5 m, one anchor with 27 m cable 5-8 m, one anchor with 27 m cable over 8 m, two anchors with 37 m cable each 									
Pumping/bailing equipment	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under 5 m: suitable bailing equipment 5-8 m: bilge pump 45 L/minute capacity over 8 m: bilge pump 70 L/minute capacity 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under 5 m: suitable bailing equipment 5-8 m: bilge pump 45 L/minute capacity over 8 m: bilge pump 70 L/minute capacity 									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under 5 m: suitable bailing equipment 5-8 m: bilge pump 45 L/minute capacity over 8 m: bilge pump 70 L/minute capacity 									
Manual propulsion oars or paddles (boats under 6 m)	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 positive flotation statement is a certificate, in the approved form, from a manufacturer or an accredited marine surveyor. It is not required to be carried on board, but an enforcement agency may ask the owner to provide proof of its existence.

[^] 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.

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

The following table compares the types of life jackets and PFDs under the Australian standards.

Under standard AS 4758	Under previous standards
Level 275 Level 150	Coastal life jacket
Level 275 Level 150 Level 100	PFD type 1 (AS 1512–1996)
Level 50	PFD type 2 (AS 1499–1996)
Level 50 special purpose	PFD type 3 (AS 2260–1996)