

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).

- Non-registrable boat means recreational boats with an engine or auxiliary under 3kW (4hp). Requirements or recommendations listed also apply to international or interstate boats operating in Queensland.
- Registrable boat means recreational boats with an engine or auxiliary of 3kW or more (over 4hp). Requirements or recommendations listed also apply to international or interstate boats operating in Queensland.
- 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		
	non-registrable boat	registrable boat	PWC	non-registrable boat	registrable boat	PWC	non-registrable boat	registrable boat	PWC
EPIRB*(406 MHz) Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. When operating more than 2nm from land.							required	required	required
Signalling device torch, fluorescent light, lantern and cyalume stick. Required when operating between sunset and sunrise.	required	required	required	required	required	required	required	required	required
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 4.8m. 	PFD type 1, 2 or 3 recommended	PFD type 1, 2 or 3 required	PFD type 2 or 3 required	PFD type 1 or 2 recommended	PFD type 1 or 2 required	PFD type 2 required	PFD type 1 recommended	PFD type 1 required	PFD type 2 required
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Except in a river, creek or stream, or waters contained within breakwaters or revetments if the boat has positive flotation***, and grab handles, lines or a secure hold for each person onboard. • PFD not required for a tender to a recreational boat if used within 1km 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 4.8m. • PFD not required for a tender to a recreational boat if used within 1km 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 4.8m. • PFD not required for a tender to a recreational boat if used within 500m of the primary boat and tender has a positive flotation statement*** in the approved form. 			
V sheet				recommended	required		recommended	required	
Flares two red hand flares and two orange smoke flares.				recommended	required		recommended	required	
Fire fighting equipment all boats over 5m. 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
Navigation Navigation chart and a liquid damped compass appropriate to the operational area, or other directional finding or positioning equipment.				recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	
Anchoring For boats less than 5m, the cable can be chain or rope. For boats over 5m, the cable can be chain of at least 2m attached to anchor and rope.	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m, one anchor with 18m cable • 5-8m, one anchor with 27m cable • over 8m, two anchors with 37m cable each 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m, one anchor with 27m cable • 5-8m, one anchor with 27m cable • over 8m, two anchors with 37m cable each 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • less than 5m, one anchor with 27m cable • 5-8m, one anchor with 27m cable • over 8m, two anchors with 37m cable each 			
Pumping/bailing equipment	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 5m: suitable bailing equipment • 5-8m: bilge pump 45L/minute capacity • over 8m: bilge pump 70L/minute capacity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 5m: suitable bailing equipment • 5-8m: bilge pump 45L/minute capacity • over 8m: bilge pump 70L/minute capacity 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 5m: suitable bailing equipment • 5-8m: bilge pump 45L/minute capacity • over 8m: bilge pump 70L/minute capacity 			
Manual propulsion oars or paddles (boats under 6m)	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	
Drinking water enough for everyone onboard for the trip	recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended		recommended	recommended	

- * 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.
- ** 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.
- *** 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.