

## Marine Information Bulletin

### Safety equipment requirements for recreational tenders

#### Background

The purpose of this Marine Information Bulletin is to clarify safety equipment requirements for recreational tenders that are registrable and tenders that do not need to be registered.

A tender is a boat, other than a lifeboat, that is not more than 6 metres in length, employed to attend another ship, smaller than the other ship and operated only in the proximity of the other ship.

Registrable means a ship that is required by the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* (the Regulation) to be registered, whether or not the ship is registered.

A tender that requires registration means tenders with an engine of 3 kilowatt (kW) or more (over 4 hp).

A tender that has an engine under 3 kW (4 hp) does not need to be registered. Also, an appropriately marked tender that has an engine of 3 kW or more yet operates only within two nautical miles (nm) of the registered primary ship does not need to be registered.

For example, a 6 metre or less tender with an engine of 3kW or more, operating beyond 2 nm from primary ship requires registration. However, a 6 metre or less tender operating within 2nm from primary ship does not need to be registered regardless of its engine power (see Table 1).

Table 1 provides information about when a tender will or will not require registration. Tenders requiring registration are highlighted in orange while those that do not need to be registered are highlighted in green.

#### Safety equipment for tenders requiring registration

A tender that requires registration must carry personal flotation devices (PFDs) and other safety equipment. (See Table 2 which highlights required safety equipment, in blue). This table includes safety equipment requirements for personal watercraft that are tenders. "Required" means safety equipment that must be carried as stipulated under the Regulation.

For example, if operating in smooth waters an appropriate PFD is required unless the tender is operating in a river, creek, stream, is equipped with

grab lines, grab rails etc and the tender has a positive flotation statement in the approved form.

Also, if operating in smooth waters and partially smooth waters, an appropriate PFD is required unless operating within a one kilometre radius of the primary ship and the tender has a positive flotation statement in the approved form. This radius is reduced to 500 metres if operating beyond partially smooth waters.

#### Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB)

A tender, whether registered or not, is also required to carry an EPIRB when operating beyond partially smooth waters and more than 2nm from land.

#### Navigation Lights

All tenders operating between sunset and sunrise, whether registered or not and irrespective of their area of operation, must be equipped with navigation lights and a lighting device for signalling to attract attention.

#### Miscellaneous equipment recommended for tenders

Table 2 also includes miscellaneous equipment for tenders recommended to be carried by tenders under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety – Recreational Ships Miscellaneous Equipment) Standard 2006* (the Standard) to meet the general safety obligation (GSO). This includes new miscellaneous equipment requirements for personal watercraft that are tenders not requiring registration. Recommended miscellaneous equipment is highlighted in yellow.

#### Compliance with general safety obligations

Operators of all ships, including tenders, are required to comply with the GSO imposed by the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* (the Act). The owner/master of a ship must not operate the ship unless the ship is safe. A ship is safe if it is seaworthy, and is appropriately equipped and crewed to meet the ordinary perils of the voyage on which the ship is proceeding or about to proceed.

Miscellaneous equipment recommended in the Standard should be carried to satisfy the GSO. If a ship is not appropriately equipped to meet the ordinary

perils of the voyage on which the ship is proceeding and a marine incident occurs, the owner/master can be prosecuted for not meeting the GSO.

### **Information**

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email [msgmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msgmail@msq.qld.gov.au).

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of vessels can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au) and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Hervey Bay	(07) 4194 9600
Mackay	(07) 4944 3700
Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8425
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
Townsville	(07) 4726 3400

**TABLE 1 – Registration requirements for 6 metre or less recreational tenders**

Engine power	Operating radius from parent ship	Must be registered
less than 3 kW	Any distance	No
3 kW or more	Less than 2 nm* (3.7 km)	No
	2 nm (3.7 km) or more	Yes

\*A tender to a registered recreational boat must be appropriately marked. The tender must be marked with the word 'tender' as well as the primary boat's registration numbers (at least 75 mm high) on the exterior of the tender. If this is not possible, marked on the inside of the tender in the largest characters possible. The tender may be marked with the owner's name or business, if it is used for more than one of the owner's boats.

**TABLE 2 – Safety and miscellaneous equipment for tenders to registered recreational ships**

Item	Smooth waters			Partially smooth waters			Beyond partially smooth waters		
	Registered*	Not requiring registration	PWC+	Registered*	Not requiring registration	PWC+	Registered*	Not requiring registration	PWC+
<b>Personal flotation device (PFD)/life jacket for each person on board</b>	Required	Recommended	Recommended	Required	Recommended	Recommended	Required	Recommended	Recommended
	PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose	PFD type 1, 2 or 3 or level 275, 150, 100, level 50 or level 50 special purpose **	PFD type 2 or 3 or level 50 or level 50 special purpose **	PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100, or level 50	PFD type 1 or 2 or level 275, 150, 100, or level 50 **	PFD type 2 or level 50 **	PFD type 1 or level 275, 150, 100	PFD type 1 or level 275, 150, 100 **	PFD type 2 or level 50 **
<b>PFD/life jacket not required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>operating within 1 kilometre of the primary ship and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender</li> <li>operates in a river, creek, stream, or the waters contained within breakwaters or revetments and is equipped with grab lines, grab rails or other permanent means of giving each person onboard a way of keeping a secure hold to the tender and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>operating within 1 kilometre of the primary ship and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>operating within 500 metres of the primary ship and there is a positive flotation statement in the approved form for the tender.</li> </ul>		
	Note: 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.								
<b>Signalling device</b> Operating between sunset and sunrise	Required	Required		Required	Required		Required	Required	
	Lighting device for signalling to attract attention at night (for example, a torch, or lantern or fluorescent light or cyalume stick). Tenders operating between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with navigation lights.								
<b>V sheet</b>				Required	Recommended	Recommended^	Required	Recommended	Recommended^
<b>Flares</b> two red hand flares and two orange smoke flares				Required	Recommended	Recommended^	Required	Recommended	Recommended^
<b>Fire fighting equipment</b>	Required	Recommended		Required	Recommended		Required	Recommended	
	A registered* tender, more than 5 metres in length must be equipped with firefighting equipment capable of extinguishing a fire quickly and effectively. It is recommended that non-registrable tenders, more than 5 metres in length should also be equipped with firefighting equipment.								
<b>EPIRB(406 MHz)</b>							Required	Required	Required
	Required when operating beyond partially smooth waters and more than 2nm (3.7 km) from land (that is, a part of the earth's surface (other than a reef) above the ordinary high-water mark at spring tides).								
<b>Navigation</b>				Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended	
	A liquid damped compass and a navigation chart appropriate to the operational area.								
<b>Anchoring</b>	Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 5 m – one anchor with at least 18 m of cable</li> <li>5 m to 6 m – an anchor with at least 27 m of cable</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 5 m – one anchor with at least 27 m of cable</li> <li>5 m to 6 m – an anchor with at least 27 m of cable</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 5 m – one anchor with at least 27 m of cable</li> <li>5 m to 6 m – an anchor with at least 27 m of cable</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For a tender less than 5 m, the cable can be a chain or rope</li> <li>For a tender 5 m or more, the cable can be a chain or a chain of at least 2 m attached to the anchor and a rope</li> </ul> The type and weight of anchor and length and thickness of the cable should be appropriate for the type and weight of ship, the weather and sea conditions and the nature of the seabed.								
<b>Pumping/bailing equipment</b>	Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less than 5 m – bailing equipment appropriate for the type of ship</li> <li>5 m to 6 m – a pump or other bailing equipment with a minimum capacity of 45 L per minute is recommended</li> </ul>								
<b>Manual propulsion</b>	Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended	
	A tender less than 6 m should be equipped with a way of manually propelling the ship, for example oars or paddles.								
<b>Drinking water</b>	Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended		Recommended	Recommended	
	Enough drinking water for everyone on board for the duration of the intended voyage.								
<b>Capacity Label</b>	Required			Required			Required		
	A capacity label must be permanently attached to the registrable tender in a place that is adjacent to each steering position in the tender and allows the capacity label to be seen clearly from the steering position. (Does not apply to a recreational ship that is not required to be registered.)								

Note: \*Also includes tenders that are required to be registered but are not.

\*In circumstances where Queensland marine safety legislation does not prescribe the safety equipment for a vessel, owners and operators of these vessels are reminded of their general safety obligation under legislation to operate their vessels safely. The Transport Operations (Marine Safety-Recreational Ships Miscellaneous Equipment) Standard 2006 provides vessel owners and operators with guidance to assist them with the discharge of this obligation.

^ Does not apply to a PWC that is operating in an approved aquatic event or within 0.5 nm from land.

+ Applies to a PWC that is not required to be registered.