

Chapter 3 - Lifesaving appliances and abandonment



LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT FOR VESSELS OF VARIOUS TONNAGES AND LENGTHS

Safety should always be your priority when on the water. Canada's Small Vessel Regulation requires you to equip your vessel with FOUR types of safety equipment.

1. Life saving equipment (such as first aid kits, life jackets, and life rafts)
2. Vessel safety equipment (such as bailers, paddles, and anchors)
3. Fire safety equipment (such as portable and fixed fire extinguishers, fire axes)
4. Distress alerting equipment (such as flares)

As the owner or operator of a vessel, it is your responsibility to ensure you are in compliance with safety regulations and that all required safety equipment is on board. As well, you must make sure your vessel's safety inventory is properly maintained and correctly functioning and that personnel (crew) know how and when to operate the equipment. Ensuring that the right quantity and type of safety equipment is on board and in good working order can save lives, and protect your vessel. It's also the law.

Life jackets are designed to keep a person's head above water and to help a person remain in a proper breathing position. To meet Transport Canada's requirement, you must have a life jacket of the appropriate size for each person aboard.

The life jackets you choose must be approved by Transport Canada and should be suitable for the type of activity in which the vessel will be engaged. Red, orange and yellow are the only life jacket colours approved for use on COMMERCIAL vessels.