

Chapter VI

Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements

1 General

- 1.1 All life-saving appliances (other than lifejackets) shall be of approved type. Appliances conforming to the International Life-Saving Appliance (“LSA”) Code adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization by its resolution MSC.48(66), and approved by a maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 is applicable or a classification society, or equivalent, are acceptable.

(Amended G.N. 3790 of 2015)

1.1A Lifejacket

- 1.1A.1** New requirements (in Part A below) regarding the life-saving appliances come into effect on 1 July 2019. The new legislation includes a transitional arrangement stipulating that within 24 months from the commencement date of the new legislation (i.e. 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2021), former requirements (in Part B below) including lifejackets shall remain valid.

Part A - New Requirements (Sections 1.1A.2 to 1.1A.7) (Effective on 1 July 2019)

- 1.1A.2 Under the regulation, unless otherwise specified, a Class IV vessel shall provide every person (regardless of whether he/she is a child or an adult) on board with a suitable lifejacket (refer to <1.1A.4>), the total number of which not less than the maximum number of persons to be carried (i.e. including crew members) as specified in the operating license. Also, Class IV vessels which are let for hire or reward and carrying more than 12 passengers shall provide infant lifejackets in a number not less than 2.5% of the maximum number of passengers to be carried (excluding crew members) as specified in the operating license.

1.1A.3 Lifejacket Standard

The lifejackets required to be provided on board a local vessel under section 32 of and Schedule 3 to the new requirements of Survey Regulation must –

- (a) at least comply with the performance standards and requirements set out in –
- (i) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply solely in the waters of Hong Kong –
 - (A) section 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 of the LSA Code; or
 - (B) ISO 12402-4:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, performance level 100 – Safety requirements) issued by the ISO; and
 - (b) be of a type approved by a maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the

International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 is applicable or a classification society or CE.

1.1A.4 Suitable Lifejacket

A suitable lifejacket means a lifejacket that is designed and manufactured in accordance with <1.1A.3> above, and fit for the intended wearer. A lifejacket complying with such standard is is—designed with a normal size range, differentiated by the weight and/or height of the intended wearer. Such a range of sizes would be marked on the label of lifejacket for reference:

| | SOLAS | ISO |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| Adult | ≥43kg, ≥155cm | ≥40kg |
| Child | 15-43kg, 100-155cm | 15-40kg |
| Infant | <15kg, <100cm | <15kg |
| “Common Lifejacket” (refer to <1.1A.6>) | N.A. | 15-120kg |

1.1A.5 To avoid confusion, the lifejackets (except infant lifejacket) placed on board should as far as practicable not to be of mixed standards.

1.1A.6 “Common Lifejacket”

A lifejacket suitable for both adults and children (Common Lifejacket) complies with ISO performance level 100 and is only suitable to be used within Hong Kong Waters. For details of the Common Lifejacket accepted by the MD and the information of the manufacturers, please refer to the [Marine Department Notice 69 of 2019](#).

1.1A7 Oversized/Overweight Passengers On Board

With reference to the LSA Code, restraining straps should be provided on board to assist overweight or oversized passengers in securing their lifejackets as they are unable to don the standard-compliant lifejackets.

Part B – Former Requirement (Section 1.1B) (Transitional Arrangements until 30 June 2021)

1.1AB The lifejackets required to be provided on board a local vessel under section 32 of and Schedule 3 to the former Survey Regulation must –

- (c) at least comply with the performance standards and requirements set out in –
 - (ii) for a local vessel which is permitted to leave the waters of Hong Kong –
 - (A) section 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 of the LSA Code; or
 - (B) ISO 12402-3:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 3: Lifejackets, performance level 150 – Safety requirements) issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO);

(iii) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply solely in the waters of Hong Kong –

(C) section 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 of the LSA Code; or

(D) ISO 12402-4:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, performance level 100 – Safety requirements) issued by the ISO; and

(d) be of a type approved by a maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 is applicable or a classification society.

(Added G.N. 3790 of 2015)

1.2 Very high frequency (VHF) radio equipment shall ~~obtain the Ship Station License issued be of a type approved~~ by the Communications Authority (CA), Hong Kong. ~~(Amended G.N. 1134 of 2017)~~

1.3 ~~One lifebuoy is deemed to support two adult persons. One lifebuoy of 760 mm diameter is deemed to support two persons.~~

1.4 The buoyant lifeline shall be attached to a lifebuoy and be placed in the proximity of the ship's side.

1.5 Lifebuoys shall be marked on both sides with the name or certificate of ownership number of the vessel on which they are carried.

2 Stowage of Appliances

2.1 Whenever a local vessel is being used or operated, every life-saving appliance carried on board the vessel shall be –

- (a) in working order;
- (b) ready for immediate use; and
- (c) placed in a position easily accessible.

2.2 Lifebuoys shall be distributed on both sides of the vessel. They are to be placed in racks unsecured to allow them to float-free as necessary.

2.3 Lifejackets shall be stowed in racks or under seats and be clearly marked. They shall be evenly distributed according to the disposition of persons on board.

2.4 If a lifejacket is individually stored in a plastic bag, and –

- (a) if the plastic bag is completely transparent, the plastic bag shall be easily ripped open; and

- (b) if the plastic bag is opaque or is not completely transparent –
 - (i) the plastic bag shall be easily ripped open; and
 - (ii) there shall be clear indication at a conspicuous place on the outside of the plastic bag that the plastic bag contains a lifejacket.

(Added G.N. 4986 of 2016)

2.5 If one or more lifejackets are stored in an enclosed space (for example: a cabinet, a bag) which is opaque or is not completely transparent, there shall be clear indication at a conspicuous place on the outside of the enclosed space that the enclosed space contains a lifejacket.

(Added G.N. 4986 of 2016)

2.6 Crew, passengers and persons on board open cruisers or similar type of vessels, where the risk of falling overboard is high, are recommended to wear lifejackets at all times.

(Added G.N. 1134 of 2017)

3 Safety Briefing

When a Class IV vessel engaged in chartering, coxswain shall ensure that all persons on board are briefed for safety as per Annex 1.

4 Scale of Life-saving Appliances

4.1 The **new** requirements of life-saving appliances **for Class IV vessels** are prescribed in **new** Survey Regulation Schedule 3, the electronic version of which is available at URL

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[http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/4B0D89C173F9FB2F482575EF0018F44D/\\$FILE/CAP_548G_e_b5.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.hk/blis_pdf.nsf/6799165D2FEE3FA94825755E0033E532/4B0D89C173F9FB2F482575EF0018F44D/$FILE/CAP_548G_e_b5.pdf)

(Amended G.N. 1134 of 2017)

4.2 **Former requirements Provisions** of life-saving appliances in **former** Survey Regulation Schedule 3 (Table 7) are quoted below for reference:

Table 7

Class IV vessels that are licensed to carry not more than 60 passengers and are not let for hire or reward and operate within waters of Hong Kong

| Life-saving appliances | Quantity | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| lifejacket | 100% ⁽¹⁾ | |
| lifebuoy | Vessel length (L)(m) | Number |
| | (L) <12 | 1 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| | $12 \leq (L) < 21$ | 2 |
| | $21 \leq (L) < 37$ | 4 |
| | $(L) \geq 37$ | 6 |
| buoyant lifeline ⁽²⁾ | 1 | |

Notes:

(1) Where the required quantity of life-saving appliances is expressed as a percentage, it means the percentage of the total number of persons on board.

(2) The minimum length of buoyant lifeline is :

For $(L) < 21$ m 18 m

For $(L) \geq 21$ m 27.3 m

4.3 **Former requirements Provisions** of life-saving appliances in **former** Survey Regulation Schedule 3 (table 1 and table 2) are quoted below for reference:

Table 1

- (ii) Class IV vessels that are licensed to carry more than 60 passengers
- (iii) Class IV vessels that are licensed to carry 13 to 60 passengers but are let for hire or reward

| Operation area Life-saving appliances | Specified sheltered waters | Anywhere within waters of Hong Kong |
|--|---|--|
| lifejacket | any number) | 100% adult lifejacket + 5% children lifejacket |
| lifebuoy | minimum number per Table 2) Total 100% ⁽¹⁾) | minimum number per Table 2 |
| buoyant lifeline ⁽²⁾ | 1 for vessel (L)<12 m 2 for vessel (L)≥12 m | |
| self-igniting light ⁽³⁾ | 2 | |

Notes:

- (1) Where the required quantity of life-saving appliances is expressed as a percentage, it means the percentage of the total number of persons on board.
- (2) The minimum length of buoyant lifeline for a Class IV vessel that is licensed to carry more than 60 passengers is 30 m.

The minimum length of buoyant lifeline for a Class IV vessel that is licensed to carry not more than 60 passengers is :

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| For (L)<21 m | 18 m |
| For (L)≥21 m | 27.3 m |

- (3) Required for a Class IV vessel that carries more than 100 passengers.

Table 2

Minimum number of lifebuoys as required in Table 1

| Vessel length (L)(m) | Number of lifebuoys |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| (L) < 12 | 2 |
| 12 ≤ (L) < 15 | 4 |
| 15 ≤ (L) < 18 | 6 |
| 18 ≤ (L) < 21 | 8 |
| 21 ≤ (L) < 24 | 10 |
| (L) ≥ 24 | 12 |

4.4 ~~Former requirements~~ Provisions of life-saving appliances in former Survey Regulation Schedule 3 (Table 3 and Table 5) are quoted below for reference:

Table 3

(ii) Class IV vessels that are licensed to carry not more than 12 passengers but are let for hire or reward

| Life-saving appliances \ Operation area | Specified Sheltered Waters | Anywhere within waters of Hong Kong |
|---|--|--|
| lifejacket | any number) Total | 100% adult lifejacket + <5% children lifejacket> ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ |
| lifebuoy | any number) 100% ⁽¹⁾ | minimum number per Table 5 |
| buoyant lifeline ⁽³⁾ | 1 for vessel (L)<12 m 2 for vessel (L)≥12 m | |
| <self-igniting light (for vessel (L)≥ 37 m)> ⁽²⁾ | 2 | |

Notes:

- (1) Where the required quantity of life-saving appliances is expressed as a percentage, it means the percentage of the total number of persons on board.
- (2) Requirements in angle brackets (“< >”) are for new vessels only.
- (3) The minimum length of buoyant lifeline is 30 m.

Table 5

Minimum number of lifebuoys as required in Table 3

| Vessel length (L)(m) | Number of lifebuoys |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| (L) < 12 | 1 |
| 12 ≤ (L) < 24 | 2 |
| 24 ≤ (L) < 37 | 4 |
| (L) ≥ 37 | 6 |

Note: For jetski, one lifejacket for each person to be provided onboard.