

# LS5

## REGULATIONS – RESCUE VESSELS



# LS5.1 ROLE SPECIFIC LICENCES



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WALES

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## PURPOSE

To outline the licences required for specific roles within lifesaving services.

## POLICY

All personnel are required to hold the appropriate licences in order to operate powercraft for lifesaving services.

## PROCEDURE

### Rescue Vessels

Crew members are required to obtain the necessary Federal and State Government licences relating to the operations of the marine rescue vessel they are operating (including exemptions and arrangements in place with SLSNSW).

A rescue vessel is defined as a rescue vessel that operates both short and long range in both surveillance and response operations.

### Types of SLS Rescue Vessels

- Jet Rescue Boat (JRB)
- Offshore Rescue Boat (ORB)
- Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RIB)
- Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB)
- Rescue Water Craft (RWC)

### Drivers Licence (Motor Vehicles)

The length of the tow vehicle and trailer is considerable and all up the weight of the boat and trailer can be up to 5 tonnes. A 'Class C' licence covers vehicles up to 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass (GVM). GVM is the maximum recommended weight a vehicle can be when loaded, therefore crew members are to obtain the appropriate NSW driver licence class. This may be a Light, Medium or Heavy Rigid Class or an "Articulated and Combination" licence, depending on the size of the towing vehicle and trailer.

### Radio Licence

VHF and HF Marine Radio Operators must have a licence to use these radios. Courses can be arranged through a local Marine Rescue NSW Unit.

## REFERENCE

NSW Roads and Maritime Services

<http://www.marinerescuensw.com.au/boating-education/radio-courses>

# LS5.2 POWERCRAFT OPERATOR LICENSING

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## PURPOSE

To outline Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) licensing requirements for Surf Life Saving Powercraft such as Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRBs) and Rescue Water Craft (RWCs).

## POLICY

All personnel operating a Surf Life Saving IRB/RWC must be qualified, endorsed and proficient to operate the vessel under Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) and State regulations/requirements.

Holding a SLSA RWC licence allows for RWC operation within lifesaving operations only (on approved lifesaving RWCs). Use of PWCs for non-lifesaving activities is not covered by SLSA licences (a separate RMS boating licence and PWC license must be obtained from RMS).

## PROCEDURE

### RWC Licensing Procedure

The following procedure applies to a member's RWC licensing:

1. Member must hold the prerequisites to commence RWC training (see Support Operations Member Application Form);
2. Apply to Branch and SLSNSW to commence training;
3. Confirmation granted by SLSNSW;
4. Member undertakes Part 1 of RWC training (Navigation, preparing for boat operations) under supervision of a State RWC facilitator or State IRB Assessor;
5. Member must maintain their signed workbook as proof of completion of Part 1;
6. Member undertakes section 2 and additional training under supervision of a Branch RWC trainer and/or State RWC facilitator;
7. Member completes RWC assessment under supervision of State RWC facilitator;
8. Member issued RWC Operators Award (as a laminated card);
9. Member commences active patrolling.

### Annual Renewal/Proficiency

Members must complete their RWC proficiency annually. After completion they will be issued a new RWC Drivers Award with an updated expiry date.

### RMS Licensing

All drivers and operators of SLSNSW craft (for strictly SLSNSW activities) shall hold\* a SLSNSW Licence for the craft to which they are operating. The licence will indicate the relevant vessel:

RWC – Rescue Water Craft

IRB – Silver Medallion IRB Driver

ORB – Offshore Rescue Boat Driver/Skipper

JRB – Jet Rescue Boat Driver/Skipper

\*Trainee drivers must have the minimum qualification signed off by an assessor on an Assessment Summary Form and be under the direct supervision of someone who holds a licence.

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SLSNSW RWC and IRB award holders are not required to obtain additional RMS boating/PWC licenses due to the components of such being included with the SLS training/assessment structure. This process is endorsed and is an exemption granted by RMS. This exemption applies to lifesaving activities only i.e. not personal boating activities or activities not deemed as lifesaving operations (patrolling, emergency response, training).

Licences will be sent to members by SLSNSW when they achieve their award through SurfGuard. Award holders shall be required to carry their licenses with them at all times when operating marine rescue vessels.

Licenses shall be reissued annually following proficiencies for all marine rescue vessel license holders.

Members may already hold the general boating licence and PWC licence through RMS (be licensed for personal use). This however, does not negate the need to complete Part One of RWC training within the SLSA RWC course. Additionally, a current RMS issued Boat or PWC licence does not negate the need to complete annual SLS powercraft proficiency.

## REFERENCE

Support Operations Member Application Form

# LS5.3 RESCUE VESSEL REGULATIONS/EXEMPTIONS



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## PURPOSE

To provide information pertaining to Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) rescue vessel operations under the maritime legislation in NSW.

## POLICY

All boat users in NSW fall under maritime regulations/legislation including lifesaving services. Due to the nature of operations there are a series of formal exemptions for SLSNSW. All surf life saving personnel and marine rescue vessels shall adhere to the requirements of regulations/legislation in NSW (including formal exemption requirements).

## PROCEDURE

### Surf Rescue Vessel Registration

Permission has been granted to SLSNSW by the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) that all IRBs and RWCs used for lifesaving services are to be registered through SLSNSW with a Surf Rescue (SR) number. SLSNSW manages a database of SR numbers internally, therefore a vessel with an SR number is not filed with the RMS.

### Registration Procedure – New Vessel

1. Prior to purchasing a vessel from a manufacturer a Club/Branch/SLSNSW must complete a SLSNSW New Vessel Registration Application Form.
2. SLSNSW will review and record the details of the vessel then provide the registration number to the Club/Branch.
3. Club/Branch is to forward details of the vessel Surf Rescue number to the vessel manufacturer for inclusion on the vessel.
4. Club/Branch must add details of vessel registration to SurfGuard.

### Annual Re-Registration

1. Clubs/service shall be responsible for maintaining accurate vessel registration and equipment details within SurfGuard.
2. Clubs/services shall be responsible for ensuring that changes to vessel registration information are communicated to SLSNSW.
3. Prior to the annual gear and equipment inspection the Branch gear inspectors will be required to print the surf rescue vessels (IRB,RWC) pre-filled Gear Inspection Checklist Form from SurfGuard with the other relevant lifesaving gear and equipment inspection checklists.
4. Branch gear inspectors are to cross reference the information on the pre-filled Gear Inspection Checklist Form with the clubs/service surf rescue vessels to confirm that these vessels are registered with SLSNSW and the details are correct.
5. If the details are correct gear inspectors are to sign the relevant vessel Gear Inspection Form and maintain this on file at the Branch office.  
Note: These may be audited by SLSNSW at any time.
6. If the details are incorrect on the pre-filled Gear Inspection Checklist Form, the Branch gear inspector is to make the relevant amendments and return a copy to SLSNSW.
7. If there is a surf rescue vessel that is not registered with SLSNSW, the Club/service will be required to complete a New Vessel Registration Application Form and return to SLSNSW.

# LS5.3 RESCUE VESSEL REGULATIONS/EXEMPTIONS



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8. If a Club/service has sold a vessel previously registered with SLSNSW the Club/service will be required to complete the vessel transfer procedure below.

## Vessel Transfer Procedure (selling/gifting/disposing)

1. Prior to selling/gifting/disposing of a vessel a Club/Branch shall complete a SLSNSW Transfer of Vessel Registration Form.
2. SLSNSW provide confirmation of receipt of the Transfer of Vessel Registration Form and Club/Branch is to then remove the vessel from Club/Branch SurfGuard records.
3. If the vessel is sold to a party other than a Club/Branch of SLSNSW, or is being disposed, the Surf Rescue (SR) number and all associated Surf Life Saving branding and wording must be removed from the vessel prior to transaction being completed. Failure to remove SR and SLS branding may result in consequences for the Club/Branch to which the SR is registered to.

## Registration Numbers

Each vessel shall display its registration number on both its port and starboard forward gunwales. The registration numbers shall be affixed in block letters at least 150mm in height [minimum of 100mm for Rescue Water Craft (RWC)] in either black or contrasting in colour with the hull or background.

Any other Club/Service related vessel must be registered as per normal public procedure through RMS (Training supporting boats etc).

## Licensing of Drivers/Operators

All drivers and operators of SLSNSW rescue vessels (for strictly SLSNSW activities) shall hold\* a SLSNSW Licence for the craft to which they are operating. The licence will indicate the relevant vessel:

RWC – Rescue Water Craft

IRB – Silver Medallion IRB Driver

ORB – Offshore Rescue Boat Driver/Skipper

JRB – Jet Rescue Boat Driver/Skipper

\*Trainee drivers must have the minimum qualification signed off by an assessor on an Assessment Summary Form and be under the direct supervision of someone who holds a licence.

SLSNSW RWC and IRB award holders are not required to obtain additional RMS boating/PWC licenses due to the components of such being included with the SLS training/assessment structure. This process is endorsed and is an exemption granted by RMS. This exemption applies to lifesaving activities only – patrolling, emergency response, training (not personal boating activities or activities not deemed as lifesaving operations).

Licences will be sent to members by SLSNSW when they achieve their award through SurfGuard. Award holders shall be required to carry their licenses with them at all times when operating marine rescue vessels.

Licenses shall be reissued annually following proficiencies for all marine rescue vessel license holders.

## Marine Incidents

A 'Marine Incident' is a serious event and requires immediate reporting and adherence to RMS and SLSNSW protocols. See the Marine Incident Report Policy LS5.4.

Generally a 'Marine Incident' involves events where there is:

- Collision of a surf rescue powercraft with another vessel causing damage/injury.

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- Collision of a surf rescue powercraft with a member of the public causing injury.
- Injury sustained by surf life saving member from a surf rescue powercraft.
- Any injury/death caused to a member of the public or lifesaver by any public powercraft.

A Duty Officer should be tasked to every marine incident

## Lifejackets

From 1 October 2014, all surf lifesavers (driver and crew) operating Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRBs) both in frontline lifesaving operations and IRB training must wear a certified lifejacket, also to be referred to as a Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs).

### Equipment Requirements:

- Certified lifejackets must meet the SLSA specification; most notably the safety standard that underpins the specification – Australian Standard: 4758.1-2008 Personal Flotation Devices - Level 50 or International Standard:12402:6:2006 Personal Flotation Devices - Level 50]
- Clubs/services are to procure certified lifejackets to satisfy their current SLS state/territory service agreement/ standard operational procedures or their local operational and membership requirements. As a guideline only, it is recommended that 3 x PFDs per IRB owned by the club/service in varying sizes (XS-XXL) be held.
- Certified lifejackets [AS:4758 or ISO:12402 - Level 50] are subject to gear and equipment inspections.

### Operational Requirements:

- Both IRB driver and crewperson/s are to wear a certified lifejacket [AS:4758 or ISO:12402 - Level 50] (worn correctly; zipped and clipped up as applicable and in the correct size) at all times when in an IRB on the water.
- The IRB crewperson may only remove the certified lifejacket [AS:4758 or ISO:12402 - Level 50] when exiting the boat to perform an in-water rescue. The lifejacket must be put back on upon re-entry to the IRB.

### Construction Requirements:

All buoyancy aids used for inshore aquatic power craft activities must be certified and meet International Standard: 12402:6 (Personal Flotation Devices – Buoyancy Aids - Level 50) or Australian Standard 4758.1 (Personal Flotation Devices – Level 50S).

- Inflatable buoyancy aids that require user intervention are not acceptable.
- The buoyancy aid is to be lightweight;
- The buoyancy aid is to be non-obstructive to the throat, neck or face area;
- The buoyancy aid must not have any sharp edges or materials that may cause injury to the user;
- The buoyancy aid must be able to be secured as to prevent riding up;
- Any fastening device/s on the buoyancy aid are to be fashioned in a way that they don't cause entanglement;
- The buoyancy aid is to be comfortable to wear.

### Surf Life Saving Operational Requirements:

To be fit for surf lifesaving purpose, a buoyancy aid for inshore aquatic power craft activities must be able to meet the following requirements:

- Be non-restrictive and streamlined for operational duties including swimming (25m in calm seas), lifting patients and moving in and around power craft;
- Be suitable for beach and surf conditions (durable to salt water and extreme UV conditions);

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- Be easy and quick to fit and remove;
  - Optional: Where the lifejacket is to be used for night time operations, it is to have reflective taping. Reflective taping must be on the outside of the jacket;
  - Optional: If required, have a securing point for a duty radio on the right collar bone area.

## Branding and Colour Requirements:

- Life jackets are to be red or yellow in colour.
- The words SURF RESCUE or Lifeguard must appear on the back of the vest in lettering 70mm high x 25mm wide.
- The SLS logo is to be shown on the front left breast. This is to be 50mm high x 50mm wide.

A lifejacket is required to be worn at all times in the following circumstances:

- Operating an RWC
- Crossing a bar in an IRB
- Undertaking night operations in an IRB

ORB/JRBs lifejacket requirements shall be as per their vessel requirements under state regulations and vessel survey requirements.

## Speed

- SLS vessels shall adhere to state regulations regarding speed and distance to other vessels and persons in water except for when required for lifesaving activities (patrolling, emergency response, and training).
- Adherence to the vessel operating procedures (SOPs), Powercraft Code of Conduct and the application of a risk assessment approach shall always be required.

## REFERENCE

SLSNSW New Vessel Registration Application Form

SLSNSW Transfer of Vessel Registration Form

SLSNSW Witness Statement Form

SLSA Incident Report Log

RMS Vessel Incident Report

SLSA Powercraft Code of Conduct

SLSA Bulletin 03/13-14 Mandatory Wearing of Certified Lifejackets in IRBs - Lifesaving and Competition

SLSA Circular 66/13-14 Lifejacket Suppliers List -IRB Operations and Competition



# LS5.4 VESSEL INCIDENT REPORTING (RMS)

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## PROCEDURE

To outline regulations for marine rescue vessels in NSW.

## POLICY

Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) has an obligation to comply with the relevant Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) requirements.

## PURPOSE

Surf Life Saving work closely with and within the RMS scope of management/responsibility.

It is essential that any incidents involving Surf Life Saving resources follow the correct reporting and reviewing procedure in line with our requirements as an emergency service.

### Definition of “an incident” which requires immediate reporting to SLSNSW

- Collision of a surf rescue powercraft with another vessel causing damage/injury.
- Collision of a surf rescue powercraft with a member of the public causing injury.
- Injury sustained by surf life saving member from a surf rescue powercraft.
- Any injury/death caused to a member of the public or lifesaver by any public powercraft.

Where no lifesaving personnel or powercraft are involved the responsibility primarily falls to the skipper of the vessels involved and/or the Police or RMS officer on scene. If Police or an RMS officer is not immediately available it may be prudent for lifesavers to make a report.

All incidents and injuries where a powercraft has been involved must be reported to SLSNSW and RMS within 48 hours of the incident occurring. All incidents involving a fatality, serious injury and/or damage to property, including a vessel, costing more than \$5,000 are to reported to RMS within 48 hours of the incident occurring.

RMS must be notified using the RMS Vessel Incident Form (available from SLSNSW and RMS websites).

Notification to SLSNSW can be done immediately via the Branch Director of Lifesaving with a report completed into the Incident Report Database and a copy of the Incident Report Log communicated to SLSNSW.

A SLS Duty Officer should attend marine incidents.

## REFERENCE

RMS Vessel Incident Report

# LS5.5 RESCUE VESSEL OPERATIONS CLOSE TO FLAGGED AREAS



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## PURPOSE

To outline Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) policy with regards to marine rescue vessel use in and around designated red and yellow flagged patrol areas.

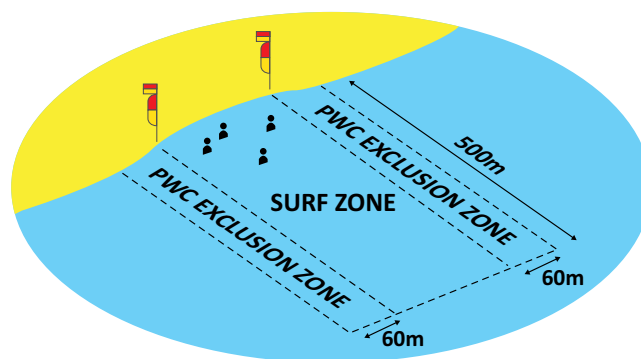
## POLICY

SLSNSW is committed to safe operations and requires all personnel to follow the requirements listed in this policy.

## PROCEDURE

Rescue vessels pose a hazard due to size, weight and speed of the vessel.

Rescue Vessels shall not operate, launch or beach within a designated patrolled area and must remain at least 60m either side and/or at least 500m from shore unless required to respond to an emergency within this area.



## SLSNSW EXEMPTIONS

The following regulations do not apply to Surf Life Saving Powercraft that are operated for the purpose of undertaking rescues or surf rescue training or patrolling.

## RMS REGULATIONS – PUBLIC (NON SLS) VESSELS

PWCs (excluding SLS RWCs included in lifesaving operations) exceeding 10 knots, must stay:

- 60m from any person in the water
- 60m from any non-powered vessel under 4m
- 30m from any other vessel
- 30m from the shore/river bank/structures

Other vessels must (if exceeding 10knots) stay:

- 30m from any person/object/vessel in water
- 60m from any person in water, if towing an aqua-planer (skier/wakeboard/tube)

All vessels must stay 500m from shore and 60m clear of any lifesaver/lifeguard patrolled areas. Lifesaving craft/vessels are exempt only if performing a rescue.

# LS5.6 RESCUE VESSEL LAUNCHING & BEACHING ZONES



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## **PURPOSE**

To outline the procedure for ensuring public safety during positioning, launching and beaching of marine rescue vessels on beaches.

## **POLICY**

Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) require additional safety considerations when launching and beaching marine rescue vessels.

## **PROCEDURE**

Marine Rescue Vessels are a hazard due to their size, weight, speed and a combination thereof. Launching and beaching creates a situation where the vessel may have a lowered level of control.

Vessels shall be positioned on the beach in 'standby' and shall launch and beach within pre-determined designated areas demarcated by specific 'Rescue Craft Access Area' hazards signs.

Drivers/operators/skippers shall ensure the beach area and immediate water area is clear of patrons prior to launching or beaching the vessel.

In emergency situations marine rescue vessels may be exempted from this requirement but shall ensure risk is minimised to any in-water patrons as best able/appropriate.

## **REFERENCE**

SLSA Surf Store/Signage

SLSA Powercraft Manual

# LS5.7 WHALE & DOLPHIN REGULATIONS

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## PURPOSE

To provide guidance regarding operating close to marine mammals.

## POLICY

Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) expects all personnel to adhere to the guidelines below.

## PROCEDURE

If in the course of lifesaving duties personnel are required to operate close to marine mammals the following shall apply:

REQUIREMENTS	DISTANCE TO A WHALE	DISTANCE TO A DOLPHIN
<b>CAUTION ZONE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Wake Speed</li> <li>Maximum of 3 vessels</li> <li>Do not enter caution zone if animals are stranded</li> </ul>	<b>BETWEEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 and 300 metres</li> </ul>	<b>BETWEEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 and 100 metres</li> </ul>
<b>NO APPROACH ZONE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not enter</li> <li>No waiting in front of direction of travel</li> <li>Do not approach from the rear</li> </ul>	<b>WITHIN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 metres</li> </ul>	<b>WITHIN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 metres</li> </ul>
<b>BOW RIDING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not deliberately encourage bow riding</li> <li>When animals are bow riding do not change course or speed suddenly</li> <li>If there is a need to stop gradually reduce speed.</li> </ul>		

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Rescue Vessels

# Whale and dolphin watching

Whale approach distances



Dolphin approach distances



Advice to skippers

- Go slow when within 300m of whales and 150m of dolphins
- No more than three vessels at a time should approach whales or dolphins. Wait for your turn and don't barge in
- Start your approach at an angle of at least 30 degrees to their direction of travel
- If a whale approaches your vessel:
  - ~ Slow down to 'no wash' speed
  - ~ Move away or disengage your vessel's gears
  - ~ Make no sudden movement
  - ~ Minimise noise

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APRIL 2012



# LS5.7 WHALE & DOLPHIN REGULATIONS



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Lifesaving personnel, vessels and/or equipment shall not directly undertake animal/mammal disentanglement operations (i.e shark net entanglement) as this is not a lifesaving activity and falls outside of SOPs and relevant insurances.

Lifesaving services may provide in water safety support to other agencies/vessels involved in entanglement operations but shall maintain a 100m (whale), or 50m (dolphin) distance, unless in a life threatening emergency.

Lifesaving Services may assist with:

- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) officers with their vehicles (eg ATV) to tow NPWS trailers/boats
- NPWS boats into the surf zone and with initial reconnaissance of animal
- Advice on launch locations – beach entry and/or boat ramps
- Use of NSW Surf Life Saving radio for communication

All assistance is subject to sign off from the Patrol Captain/Head Lifeguard & IRB/RWC Driver.

## REFERENCE

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Roads and Maritime Services

