

SAFETY FACT SHEET

DEFINITIONS:

Pyrotechnic Distress Signal: commonly called a Marine Flare.

(Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations FVSR). https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C.R.C.,_c._1486.pdf

Types of Pyrotechnic Distress Signals:

Type A: Rocket Parachute Flare - creates a single star, reaches a height of 300m, comes down slowly with a parachute, burns for at least 40 seconds;

Type B: Multi-Star Flare - creates two or more stars, reaches a height of 100m, burns for four or five seconds;

Type C: Hand-Held Flare - a red flame torch held in a hand, burns for at least one minute;

Type D: Smoke Signal - creates a dense orange smoke, burns for three minutes, can be hand-held or buoyant, good for only day time use.

Hull Length: means the distance measured on a vessel from the forward end of the foremost outside surface of the hull shell to the aft end of the aftermost outside surface of the hull shell. Hull length must also

DEFINITIONS:

As summarized from the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations, July 2017

Vessel Hull Length	Sheltered Waters and Near Coastal 2 (All voyages within 25 nm from shore)	Near Coastal 1 and Unlimited Voyages (All voyages beyond 25 nm from shore)
Not more than 6 m (19'8")	Pyrotechnic Distress Signals other than Smoke Signals (no smoke permitted)	3 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals other than Smoke Signals (no smoke permitted)
More than 6 m but not more than 9 m (29'6")	6 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals other than Smoke Signals (no smoke permitted)	6 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals, other than Smoke Signals, of which at least 2 must be Rocket Parachute Flares (no smoke permitted)
More than 9 m but not more than 12 m (39'4")	6 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals of which not more than 3 are Smoke Signals	6 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals of which at least 2 must be Rocket Parachute Flares and not more than 3 are Buoyant Smoke Signals
More than 12 m but not more than 15 m (49'2")	12 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals of which not more than 6 are Smoke Signals	12 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals of which at least 4 must be Rocket Parachute Flares and not more than 6 are Buoyant Smoke Signals
More than 15 m (49'2")	12 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals of which not more than 6 are Smoke Signals	12 Pyrotechnic Distress Signals of which at least 6 must be Rocket Parachute Flares and not more than 6 are Buoyant Smoke Signals

NOTE: A fishing vessel is not required to carry on board pyrotechnic distress signals if the vessel is equipped with a 2-way radio communication system and the vessel is operated

- on a river, canal or lake where it is never more than 1 nm from shore OR
- exclusively in the confines of a manned aquaculture facility OR
- within 500 m from shore.

Continued...

MARINE FLARES

Continued...

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. A Pyrotechnic Distress Signal (Marine Flare) shall bear a mark or label indicating that it is Transport Canada (TC) approved.
— Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations (FVSR) Section 3.2(1)
2. Every Pyrotechnic Distress Signal (Marine Flare) carried on a ship expires **four years** after its date of manufacture and shall be withdrawn from service.
— CSA2001, Life Saving Equipment Regulations, Section 123 & Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations (FVSR) Section 3.27(3)
3. Expired Marine Flares **MUST** be returned to companies or individuals that have been identified as a Distributor under the Canadian Explosives Act. In the marine industries, any company that inspects and repacks liferafts are usually approved as a Distributor of Pyrotechnic Distress Signals. Some local marine supplies Retailers will accept expired Marine Flares on behalf of a Distributor but are not obligated to do so.
4. Law Enforcement Agencies (local Police Forces, RCMP, etc.) and Government Representatives (TCMSS Inspectors, DFO Officers, Coast Guard Officers, etc.) **do not** collect and are not supposed to carry expired Marine Flares. They must be returned to a Distributor (or an accepting Retailer) by the owner.

NOTE: This Fact Sheet is being provided for information purposes only and requirements should be confirmed with a local Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security Inspector before making any modifications to a vessel or purchases of safety equipment. Some information provided on Regulatory Requirements and/or Carriage Requirements may be edited, summarized or somewhat generalized for the purpose of this Fact Sheet or for space in the document. Please refer to the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations and any other Regulations referenced for full text.