

SAFETY FACT SHEET

DEFINITIONS:

Life Raft: an emergency raft for use when a vessel must be abandoned at sea. The two main types are:

Inflatable: consists of a raft constructed of rubber inflatable chambers that can be packed in a small hard canister or soft valise type container for storage and inflated by activating a cylinder of compressed gas. The following are the basic types of inflatable rafts:

- a) SOLAS: (Safety of Life at Sea) generally of large capacity (6 or more passengers), are built and tested to the International Maritime Organization's Lifesaving Appliances Code, designed to withstand conditions that may be encountered in emergencies beyond Near Coastal Class 2 (more than 25 nm from shore).
- b) Reduced Capacity: similar in construction standard as the SOLAS life raft but rated for less than 6 passengers;
- c) Coastal: constructed to meet requirements of the Canadian Life Saving Appliance Standards, approved for use on fishing voyages within 25 nm of shore.

Rigid: constructed of rigid materials or a combination of rigid materials and inflatable compartments and not relying wholly on inflatable compartments for buoyancy and form. Rigid Life Rafts commonly available in Maritimes do meet SOLAS standards.

Recovery Boat: a boat that is auxiliary to a fishing vessel and that can be used in an emergency. Information on requirements for the fitting

and use of a Recovery Boat in lieu of or in combination with inflatable Life Rafts are available from a local Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security office.

DEFINITIONS:

1. A Life Raft that is carried on board a fishing vessel shall be marked with the date and place of the last service, shall be stored on board in a manner that allows easy manual deployment and, except in the case of a coastal Life Raft that is packed in a valise type container, mounted so that it will automatically float free if the vessel sinks.

– Summarized from the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations, Section 3.29 https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C.R.C.,_c._1486.pdf

2. An inflatable Life Raft shall be serviced annually in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer. The servicing period can be extended to 24 months if the following conditions have been met:

- The vessel operates less than 7 months of the year with the Life Raft on board and the historical monthly average air temperature is above 0°C as determined by Environment Canada;
- When removed from the vessel, it is stored in a dry place and protected from extreme weather conditions;
- The age of the Life Raft is less than 15 years;
- The hydrostatic test date of inflation cylinder(s) will not expire during the period of extension;
- No piece of equipment (flares, etc.) of the Liferaft will expire during the period of extension;
- The planned extended service period is approved by Transport Canada Marine Safety.

– Summarized from the Life Saving Equipment Regulations, Schedule IV, Section 2 https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C.R.C.,_c._1486.pdf

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LIFE RAFTS

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3. A Rigid Life Raft that does not have inflatable compartments does not require an annual inspection by the manufacturer but the vessel owner should conduct an annual inspection and immediately correct any deficiencies. However, the Emergency Pack must be inspected at a maximum period of every 4 years and all equipment replaced that have expiry dates due in the next 4 years. The Emergency Pack must be properly re-stowed inside the Rigid Liferaft. General Information:

DEFINITIONS:

As summarized from the Navigation Safety Regulations 2020 (Section 209) <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/SOR-2020-216.pdf> and the Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations (Section 3.28) https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C.R.C.,_c._1486.pdf

Vessel Hull Length	Sheltered Waters Voyages	Near Coastal 2 Voyages (within 25 nm of shore)	Near Coastal 1 and Unlimited (beyond 25 nm from shore)
Not more than 12 m (39'4")	a) 1 or more Life Rafts** or Recovery Boats for 100 % of persons on board; OR b) The following equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 EPIRB or 2-way Radio; AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Suits or Anti-Exposure Work Suits for 100% of persons on board OR Life Saving appliances or written procedures (or both) for protection from the effects of hypothermia or cold shock.	a) 1 or more Life Rafts** or a combination of Life Rafts and Recovery Boats for 100 % of persons on board; OR b) The following equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 EPIRB; AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immersion Suits or Anti-Exposure Work Suits for 100% of persons on board. 	Near Coastal 1 Voyage 1 or more SOLAS Life Rafts or Reduced Capacity Life Rafts for 100 % of persons on board. Unlimited Voyage 2 or more SOLAS Life Rafts or reduced capacity Life Rafts mounted in such a manner that there is capacity for 100% of the persons on board available on each side of the vessel; AND 1 Recovery Boat
More than 12 m (39'4")		1 or more Life Rafts** or a combination of Life Rafts and Recovery Boats for 100 % of persons on board;	

** Coastal, Reduced Capacity or SOLAS Life Raft

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. The Hydrostatic Release mechanism, located on the strap that holds the Life Raft secure in its cradle and allows the Life Raft to 'float free' if the vessel sinks, must be replaced every 2 years from date of manufacture.
2. Leasing/Rental of Life Rafts - All Liferaft Sales and Service Providers have a Liferaft leasing or rental program. Overall costs vary from Company to Company and there are conditions and some service fees.

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.