



# Yacht Safety Equipment

*Recommended minimum safety equipment for Sail and Motor yachts.*

- Category A** Daylight only in sheltered waters, inland or estuary close to a safe harbour.
- Category B** Along a coast within 10 miles of land and about 4 hours of a safe harbour  
Accessible 24 hours at all tides.
- Category C** Cruising around Ireland, UK and N.W. Europe making offshore passages of between 50 and 500 miles.

**Note** Owners are reminded that the following recommended equipment is the *minimum* that should be carried.

Boats in commercial use for sport or pleasure are not covered in this publication. Owners should contact the Department of Transport for full information.

**Racing Yachts** The ISA recommends that all racing boats comply with the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations (OSR). The ISA strongly recommends that an Organising Authority specify the OSR Category, from 0 to 6, which boats are to comply with in their Notice of Race. These differ from those identified in this document. One Design and ECHO/IRC boats may also have to comply with class rules. Copies of the ISAF Offshore Special Regulations are available to download from the ISAF website [www.sailing.org](http://www.sailing.org).

		Category		
		A	B	C
1	<b>MEANS OF PROPULSION AND ANCHORING</b>			
1.1	Oars or paddles for small craft for use in calm or in the event of engine failure.	✓		
1.2	Suitable storm sails or the ability to deep reef		✓	✓
1.3	A dedicated engine battery or a hand start facility		✓	✓
1.4	Appropriate anchor(s) with chain and/or warp	✓	✓ <sup>(2)</sup>	✓ <sup>(2)</sup>
1.5	A fairlead capable of being closed over the anchor cable and a suitable strong point on the foredeck (i.e. Samson post, mooring cleat or windlass)		✓	✓
2	<b>BILGE PUMPING</b>			
2.1	Strong bucket(s) with secure handle (8-12 litres) and rope lanyard	✓	✓ <sup>(2)</sup>	✓ <sup>(2)</sup>
2.2	Manual bilge pump capable of being operated with all hatches closed (Electric pump in lieu of 1 hand pump)		✓ <sup>(1)</sup>	✓ <sup>(2)</sup>
2.3	Softwood plugs attached near all through hull fittings	✓	✓	✓
2.4	All through hull fittings able to be closed		✓	✓
3	<b>PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR EACH CREW MEMBER</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
3.1	A lifejacket CE / ISO marked 150 Newtons with whistle light	✓	✓	✓
3.2	Safety harness (Enclosed wheelhouse vessels -1 each for 50% of the crew)		✓	✓
3.3	Jackstays		✓	✓

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4	<b>FLARES &amp; FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
4.1	Hand held red flares or mini flares	✓(2)	✓(4)	✓(4)
4.2	Hand held white flares		✓(4)	✓(4)
4.3	Orange smoke signals	✓(2)	✓(2)	✓(4)
4.4	Parachute rocket red flares		✓(2)	✓(4)
4.5	Fire-blanket CE marked	✓	✓	✓
4.6	Fire extinguisher(s) 5A/34B rating to BS 5423. Additionally high powered craft should get an auto or semi auto fire system in the engine space	✓	✓(2)	✓(3)
5	<b>LIFE RAFT AND MAN OVERBOARD EQUIPMENT</b>			
5.1	Inflatable raft designed to save life		✓	✓
5.2	An emergency grab bag			✓
5.3	Horseshoe lifebelt with whistle, drogue and light		✓	✓(2)
5.4	Buoyant sling with floating line may replace 1 horseshoe			✓
5.5	Boarding ladder		✓	✓
5.6	Dan Buoy with flag and light			✓
5.7	Heaving line (buoyant) at least 20 metres long	✓	✓	✓
6	<b>RADIO'S, NAVIGATION AND DETECTION EQUIPMENT</b>			
6.1	Radio receiver for weather forecasts	✓	✓	✓
6.2	Marine band VHF R/T		✓	✓
6.3	EPIRB and emergency VHF aerial			✓
6.4	Log/speedo and echo sounder		✓	✓
6.5	Suitable up to date charts, Navigation and Tidal publications	✓	✓	✓
6.6	Steering compass (light for night work)		✓	✓(2)
6.7	Hand Bearing compass, Binoculars, Barometers & clock		✓	✓
6.8	Position fixing aid (GPS, Decca, Plotter etc)		✓	✓
6.9	Radar reflector (ISO 8729) and Foghorn		✓	✓
6.10	Full navigation lights and anchor light & shape		✓	✓
6.11	Signalling torch and waterproof torch(es)		✓(2)	✓(3)
7	<b>GENERAL EQUIPMENT</b>			
7.1	Emergency tiller for all wheel steered craft	✓	✓	✓
7.2	Good towing warp (anchor warp may suffice)	✓	✓	✓
7.3	Mooring warps and fenders	✓	✓	✓
7.4	A rigid or inflatable tender		✓	✓
7.5	Emergency repair kit including sailmakers kit			✓
7.6	Emergency water supply			✓
7.7	Spares for engine, electric's and deck gear		✓	✓
7.8	A suitable tool kit for all eventualities	✓	✓	✓
7.9	A suitable First Aid Kit and good manual		✓	✓