



New Safety Requirements for Class IV Local Vessels (Pleasure Vessels)

Safety Video



Carriage of Lifebuoy

(Effective from 1st April 2021)

The following Class IV vessels should have sufficient number of lifebuoy for use by the maximum number of persons that the vessel is licensed to carry:

- (i) Vessel first licensed before 1st August 2020 to carry ≤ 60 passengers and is let for hire or reward;
- (ii) Open cruiser licensed to carry ≤ 60 passengers and is let for hire or reward; and
- (iii) Vessel of > 150 GT and is licensed before 1st August 2020.

Each lifebuoy is taken to be for use by 2 persons on board the vessel. Lifebuoys can be substituted by inflatable liferafts, buoyant apparatus, lifebuoys or its combination[#].

For Open Cruisers, this requirement can be waived if all passengers on board the vessel wear suitable lifejackets* while the vessel is underway.

*Suitable lifejackets ≠ life vest or any kind of personal flotation device



#Section 1.2, Part 2, Chapter X, "Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels"

Provision of Lifejackets

(Effective from 23rd December 2021)

Transitional period of new regulation on lifejacket will end at 22nd December 2021. Former requirements will be invalid.

Under the new regulations, a suitable lifejacket must be provided to each adult & child on board. Its quantity should be at least the total number of persons the vessel is licensed to carry.

Additionally, Class IV vessels licensed to carry more than 12 passengers that are let for hire or reward shall provide infant lifejackets onboard. Its number shall be at least 2.5% of the permitted number of passengers.

Note: The number of infant lifejackets shall be rounded up from the calculated value. Example: For a Pleasure Vessel that is let for hire or reward with 16 passengers, the requirement will be $2.5\% \times 16 = 0.4$ life jackets, rounded up to 1.

Director's Endorsement

(Effective from 1st August 2021)

In addition to existing requirements, a Class IV vessel **must not** be let for hire or reward unless an approval for the vessel to be let for hire or reward has been given by the Director of Marine.

The owner may apply for the approval at the Marine Department or District Marine Offices. When applying for the endorsement, the owner should:

- (i) indicate that the vessel is for hire or reward; and
- (ii) submit copies of the certificate of inspection or certificate of survey and the policy of insurance.

Note: The application for approval will not extend the processing time of a normal application.

Radiotelephone Requirements

(Effective from 1st January 2022)

Class IV vessel that is licensed to –

- (i) carry 13 to 60 passengers and is let for hire or reward; and

(ii) carry more than 60 passengers should have on board radiotelephone equipment for VHF radiotelephone communication that is capable of operation on specified VHF channels. The VHF should be maintained in good working condition at all times.

A certificated operator must be present on board at all times when it is underway. The radiotelephone equipment must be available for operation from the navigational bridge of a vessel, or from its steering position if there is no navigational bridge on the vessel.