



Crew Safety Declaration

Name:

Vessel:

The purpose of this declaration is to ensure you, as a crew person on a particular vessel, is aware of the vessel's basic safety equipment; its location; it is in good working order; it is fit for purpose; it is easily accessible; you are aware of how to operate said equipment in an emergency; and aware of any expiry dates, registrations or servicing required.

You can perform this exercise individually, or as a crew, and tick off once you are satisfied you have covered these requirements and feel confident that you can operate the equipment in an emergency situation. This declaration is a starting point and can be added to.

- ☐ **Life Jackets:** Location; how to put it on (including in the dark); straps haven't deteriorated; fit for purpose i.e. weight range/rating, level of buoyancy. For Inflatable life jackets: are they manual or automatic inflation; are they serviced, if so, when and the location of service documentation.
- ☐ **Flares:** Location; stored correctly ie. dry & undamaged; read the operating instructions (there are various brands on the market and each have slight deployment variations); checked the manufacture/expiry date; types on board (orange smoke, red hand held, & parachute flares); and in which situation to use each type).
- ☐ **V Sheet:** Its location and purpose.
- ☐ **EPIRB:** Location; how to operate (manual and/or water activated); how to test; battery expiry date; the basic principles on how the unit operates; & confirmed its registration with AMSA;. What to do if the unit is set off accidentally.
- ☐ **First Aid Kit:** Location; contents; and is the kit adequate for type and location of intended sailing area.
- ☐ **Manual Bilge Pump:** Location; operating instructions; and when it was last tested.
- ☐ **Fire Extinguishers:** Location; how to operate; and what type of fires the extinguisher is used for. Many fires are caused by electrical faults - do you know where the battery isolator switches are? Galley fires are also common - is there a fire blanket? If gas, locate the gas isolator switch. If methylated spirits, how do you isolate and extinguish?
- ☐ **VHF Radio:** Location; how to operate; and what are the distress frequencies? Under federal regulations you require an operating certificate to use a marine radio (VHF or HF).
- ☐ **Emergency Steering:** Location; how to fit and operate.
- ☐ **Person Overboard:** Do you know what to do? Have you and your crew discussed the procedure and/or carried out a simulated man over board (MOB) - do not use a person, use a fender, plastic empty fuel drum or a dummy.

Useful information can be found under the section safety equipment for recreational vessels on the Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)'s website www.msq.qld.gov.au