



Ostend, 03/07/2019

## Circular Leisure boating activities 2019/02

To organizers of competitions, group and leisure activities at sea

*This circular replaces "Circular Leisure boating 2019/01" dated 25/03/2019.*

Dear Sir Dear Madam

In competitions, group and leisure activities at sea, the following additional requirements must be respected (in addition to the mandatory legal equipment, the organizer's regulations or competition regulations). Unless otherwise stated, these obligations apply as of now.

The permit application describes an area within which the activity will take place. The farthest distance from shore (LWL) of the area in question helps determine which measures are in effect, according to the table below.

Table

	All	< 2miles	> 2miles	> 6miles
Participant list (1)	X	X	X	X
Life jacket on in cockpit or on deck (2)	X	X	X	X
Alerting (3)			X	
Alerting and communication (4)				X
EPIRB (5)				X
Life raft on deck (6)				X

(1) The organizer should fill in a record with the participating vessels, persons on board, participants before the start of the activity. This list should reflect reality throughout the activity. This list should not be transmitted in advance, but should be readily available to rescue services in case of incidents.

(2) Wearing the life jacket is mandatory under the following circumstances: if the significant wave height is 1m or more or;

- Between sunset and sunrise or;
- between Oct. 16 and May

15; Further, the obligation always applies:

- For all sailors up to 12 years of age or; when the pleasure craft is 6.5m or shorter; In

the cabin, this requirement does not apply.

If a life jacket hinders the nature of the activity (e.g., on open sailboats), a life jacket is sufficient. For surf sports within the entry zone, an impact vest or isothermal

- suit. In either case provided the participants are in sight of sufficient, nearby escort vessels.
- (3) Alerting can be done e.g. by flare, portable VHF, PLB (406MHz), AIS SART, GSM or alternatively, participants are in sight of sufficient, nearby escort vessels.
  - (4) Two different means should be on board: one for alerting (e.g. flare - beware, LED lights are not accepted) and one for communication (e.g. VHF).
  - (5) The vessel is equipped with an EPIRB (406MHz). Alternatives are: a PLB (406MHz) on board or there is a system of continuous active surveillance by the organizer. This requirement does not apply to 'cruising' group activities - these vessels are covered by standard legal equipment.
  - (6) Continuous close escort by lifeboat(s) is a valid alternative. Vessels built before June 2001 are permitted to have the life raft under the deck, if the life raft weighs less than 40kg and is safely stowed close to the cabin stairs. This requirement does not apply to "cruising" group activities - these vessels are covered by standard legal equipment.

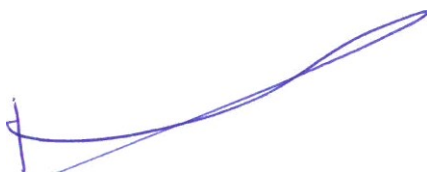
### Supervision

The organizer should supervise (at a minimum) in the following manner.

- (1) The organizer must clearly communicate to the participants, prior to and at the start of the activity, about the mandatory wearing of the life jacket in the circumstances described above (or alternative in accordance with above).
- (2) For activities close to shore (up to 2 miles) or activities, where the permit mentions escort vessels, the organizer shall supervise the wearing of the life jacket (or alternative as per above) as far as practical.
- (3) In case of official competitions, the organizer shall check the basic safety equipment of at least 20% of the participants (at least: life jacket, means of alarm, means of communication, EPIRB or alternative, life raft - if applicable according to above) and take appropriate action. A record must be kept of this.

This form of supervision by the organizer does not imply that the organizer would become responsible for the correct safety equipment or its proper use by the participants.

Sincerely



ir. Bart Wackenier  
Advisor