

	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	
	24-003	
	Original Date	Revision Date
	May 15, 2024	

## SOP

### Critical Vessel items

### Reasons for SOP

To provide a policy to vessel operational readiness based on critical compulsory vessel equipment.

### Definitions

SOLAS – Safety of Lives at Sea

### Guidelines

In keeping with RCMSAR operational capability, the first and most important consideration is the safety of the crew when on a tasking, or when training.

For the benefit of our members and to ensure compliance with both the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (Colregs), SOLAS- where applicable, and RCMSAR policy, it is essential that all vessels adhere to the critical equipment requirements to be considered operational.

The following items must be in good working order and up to date for the vessel to be deemed operational for OTW activities:

- **Fire extinguishers.**
  - Check expiry and stowage.
  - One required in boathouse/shed/etc.
  - Two for closed cabin, one for open RHIB/ T-top etc.
- **EPIRB**
  - Hydrostatic release expiry (2 years) and properly labelled, Battery (5 year or 10 years).
  - Automatic only (Class 1)
  - Outside Stowage
  - HRU required
  - Easily accessible
  - Current contacts with DND

- **Pyrotechnics** (SOLAS only, no pistol style flares)
  - At least 6 flares for vessels UNDER 9m
  - 12 flares for vessels over 9m (29.5 feet)
  - LED Canadian Approved Flares are ok AS ADDITIONAL flares. Core must be non-led.
- **RADARS (Critical item for night and restricted navigation)**
  - Functioning
  - Properly aligned
  - Approved model only
- **Navigation lights (Critical item for night and restricted navigation)**
  - All functional
  - Spare bulbs recommended
- **Self-Righting Mechanism** (If applicable)
  - Hoses, bottles, valves, bag housing, pull cord, swim away line on transom.
  - Inspected annually or as per manufacturer specification.
  - Must be current with maintenance interval and hydrostatic test cycle.
- **Kill cord** (if equipped)
  - Spare cord
- **Engine fire suppression system** (Type II or if equipped)
  - Original manufacturer equipment acceptable with annual inspection
  - No auto-activation fuse
  - Inspection records visible and current (if applicable)
  - Dampers
  - FirePro system for newer vessels or reinstallation – 10-year inspection
- **Sound Signaling device**
  - Wired (handheld can be used in addition to wired)
- **VHF Radio**
  - DSC, MMSI, GPS Input
  - POST MMSI on Radio – Label
- **Magnetic Compass**
  - Deviation Card Recommended
  - SOLAS approved Compass Recommended
- **Reboarding ladder (required if freeboard over 0.5 meters)**
  - Ready to use
  - Easily accessible.

Any of the items listed which do not comply (expired date, not functioning; missing) the station is to report this to the operations manager and the vessel is stood down and out of service until the issue is corrected.

*Bill Riggs*  
 Bill Riggs (May 14, 2024 09:35 PDT)