

# South African Maritime Safety Authority



## Marine Notice No. 34 of 2004

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### Content of liferaft equipment packs to be carried on South African ships

TO OWNERS, OPERATORS AND MASTERS OF SOUTH AFRICAN SHIPS; APPROVED LIFERAFT SERVICING STATIONS; PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND SURVEYORS

*Marine Notice No. 29 of 2004 is cancelled*

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#### *Summary*

The *Merchant Shipping (Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2002*, require that liferafts carried on South African pleasure vessels be SAMS-approved. This requires SAMS to determine the equipment to be kept in such liferafts. Accordingly, this marine notice revises SAMS's policy on liferaft equipment.

1 This marine notice clarifies requirements relating to the SOLAS-type liferaft pack (SOLAS A Pack), the pack for liferafts carried by ships on restricted voyages (Restricted Pack), and the pack for liferafts approved under the *Merchant Shipping (Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2002* (Small Vessel Pack). The notice also lists the types of liferaft that may be carried on the various kinds of South African ships.

2 **For South African ships of 25 or more gross tonnage, being ships of classes I, II, IIA, VII, VIIA, VIII, X, XI and XII, the following applies:**

- .1 Only the SAMS-approved SOLAS-type liferaft is acceptable. This liferaft complies with the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code.
- .2 Minimum liferaft equipment (SOLAS A Pack) is given in Annex 1.
- .3 The liferaft container must be marked "SOLAS A PACK" by an approved servicing station.

3 **For South African ships of 25 or more gross tonnage, being ships of class V or VI or of class IX, and South African passenger vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage, the following applies:**

- .1 These liferafts are acceptable: the SAMS-approved SOLAS-type liferaft; and the SAMS-approved open-reversible liferaft.
- .2 Minimum liferaft equipment (Restricted Pack) is given in Annex 2.
- .3 The liferaft container must be clearly marked "RESTRICTED PACK" by an approved servicing station.

4 **For South African commercial vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage, including passenger vessels restricted in their area of operation, and pleasure vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage, the following applies:**

- .1 These liferafts are acceptable: SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type liferafts; and SAMSA-approved non-SOLAS-type liferafts. (*Note*: SAMSA approval of non-SOLAS-type liferafts is currently underway).
- .2 Minimum liferaft equipment is given in Annex 3. For vessels proceeding more than 40 nautical miles from shore, a waterproof container (grabbag) with additional water, food, first aid kit and additional emergency equipment must be carried.
- .3 The container or valise for non-SOLAS-type liferafts types must be marked with the date of manufacture, the date of next service and the number of persons it is certified to carry.
- .4 In addition, the approved servicing station must mark the container or valise with the words "APPROVED FOR USE ON COMMERCIAL VESSELS OF LESS THAN 25 GT AND PLEASURE VESSELS OF LESS THAN 100 GT" and, if equipped in accordance with Annex 3, with the words "SMALL VESSEL PACK" and the following warning:

**WARNING!**

**THIS LIFERAFT IS EQUIPPED WITH A REDUCED EQUIPMENT PACK. FOR VOYAGES BEYOND 40 NAUTICAL MILES FROM SHORE, A WATERPROOF CONTAINER (GRABBAG) CONTAINING ADDITIONAL WATER, FOOD, FIRST AID KIT AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT MUST BE CARRIED.**

5 SOLAS does not prescribe the content for liferaft first aid kits. However, for liferafts on South African ships the content is prescribed and is set out in Annex 4.

6 The following table summarizes the types of liferafts and equipment packs that South African ships must carry:

Ship type	Liferaft type	Equipment pack
Ships of classes I, II, IIA, VII, VIIA, VIII, X, XI and XII	SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type	SOLAS A Pack
Ships of classes V, VI and IX, and passenger vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage	SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type or SAMSA-approved open reversible type	Restricted Pack
Commercial vessels of less than 25 gross tonnage, including passenger vessels restricted in their area of operation, and pleasure vessels of less than 100 gross tonnage	SAMSA-approved SOLAS-type or SAMSA-approved non-SOLAS-type	Small Vessel Pack. Grabbag required for voyages more than 40 nautical miles from shore.

7 SAMSA is aware of the large number of unapproved liferafts currently in service on pleasure vessels. SAMSA does not intend to approve these liferafts retroactively but expects servicing stations that service these liferafts to be an appointed agent for the liferaft type. It should be noted that licenced vessels (i.e. commercial small vessels) have been required to carry approved liferafts since 1986; this means that no unapproved liferafts may be carried on these vessels.

8 SAMSA will accept for use on pleasure vessels liferafts purchased before 26 April 2004. For the time being, they will be considered acceptable for the period expiring ten years after the date of purchase, unless condemned earlier by a liferaft servicing station.

9 Liferrafts carried on commercial vessels must be serviced annually, and those carried on pleasure vessels may be serviced at intervals recommended by the manufacturer. Every liferaft serviced after the date of this marine notice must be equipped in accordance with the appropriate Annex.

10 Approved liferaft servicing stations must keep a copy of this marine notice readily available, and servicing staff are expected to be familiar with its content. Failure to comply with the requirements of this marine notice may result in SAMSA cancelling the station's approval.

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**ANNEX 1**  
**SOLAS A PACK**

*(Paragraph 4.1.5.1 of the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code)*

- (a) 1 buoyant rescue quoit, attached to not less than 30 metres of buoyant line.
- (b) 1 knife of the non-folding type having a buoyant handle and lanyard attached and stowed in a pocket on the exterior of the canopy near the point at which the painter is attached to the liferaft. In addition, a liferaft that is permitted to accommodate 13 persons or more must be provided with a second knife that need not be of the non-folding type.
- (c) For a liferaft that is permitted to accommodate not more than 12 persons, 1 buoyant bailer. For a liferaft that is permitted to accommodate 13 persons or more, 2 buoyant bailers.
- (d) 2 sponges.
- (e) 2 sea-anchors each with a shock resistant hawser and tripping line if fitted, one being spare and the other permanently attached to the liferaft in such a way that, when the liferaft inflates or is waterborne, it will cause the liferaft to lie oriented to the wind in the most stable manner. The strength of each sea anchor and its hawser and tripping line if fitted must be adequate in all sea conditions. The sea anchor must have means to prevent twisting of the line and must be of type that is unlikely to turn inside out between its shroud lines. The sea anchor permanently attached to davit-launched liferafts and liferafts fitted on passenger ships must be arranged for manual deployment only. All other liferafts must have the sea anchor deployed automatically when the liferaft inflates.
- (f) 2 buoyant paddles.
- (g) 3 tin openers and a pair of scissors. Safety knives containing special tin-opener blades are satisfactory for this requirement.
- (h) 1 first-aid outfit in a waterproof case capable of being closed tightly after use.
- (i) 1 whistle or equivalent sound signal.
- (j) 4 SAMSA-approved rocket parachute flares.
- (k) 6 SAMSA-approved hand flares.
- (l) 2 SAMSA-approved buoyant smoke signals.
- (m) 1 waterproof electric torch suitable for Morse signalling together with 1 spare set of batteries and 1 spare bulb in a waterproof container.
- (n) 1 efficient radar reflector, unless a survival craft radar transponder is stowed in the liferaft.
- (o) 1 daylight signalling mirror with instructions, printed in English and at least one of the other official languages of the Republic, on its use for signalling to ships and aircraft.
- (p) 1 copy of the life-saving signals used by ships, aircraft, or persons in distress, as illustrated in the latest edition of the International Code of Signals published by the International Maritime Organization, on a waterproof card or in a waterproof container.
- (q) 1 set of fishing tackle.
- (r) A food ration totalling not less than 10 000 kJ for each person the liferaft is permitted to accommodate. These rations should be palatable, edible throughout the recommended shelf life, and packed in a manner that can be readily divided and easily opened. The rations must be kept in airtight packaging and be stowed in a watertight container.
- (s) Watertight receptacles containing a total of 1.5 litres of fresh water for each person the liferaft is permitted to accommodate, of which either 0.5 litres per person may be replaced by a desalting apparatus capable of producing an equal amount of fresh water in 2 days or 1 litre per person may be replaced by a manually powered reverse-osmosis desalinators capable of producing an equal amount of water in 2 days. The desalinators must not be dependent upon solar heat, nor on chemicals other than seawater.
- (t) 1 rustproof graduated drinking vessel.
- (u) Anti-seasickness medicine sufficient for at least 48 hours and 1 seasickness bag for each person the liferaft is permitted to accommodate.
- (v) Instructions, printed in English and at least one of the other official languages of the Republic, on how to survive in a liferaft.

- (w) Instructions for immediate action, printed in English and at least one of the other official languages of the Republic.
- (x) Thermal protective aids complying with the requirements of section 2.5 of the International Life-Saving Appliance Code, sufficient for 10% of the number of persons the liferaft is permitted to accommodate or 2, whichever is the greater.

**ANNEX 2**  
**RESTRICTED PACK**

- (a) 1 buoyant rescue quoit, attached to at least 30 metres of buoyant line.
- (b) For liferafts permitted to accommodate not more than 12 persons, 1 safety knife and 1 bailer. For liferafts permitted to accommodate 13 persons or more, 2 safety knives and 2 bailers.
- (c) 2 sponges.
- (d) 2 sea anchors, 1 permanently attached to the liferaft and 1 spare with line.
- (e) 2 buoyant paddles.
- (f) 1 repair outfit capable of repairing punctures in buoyancy compartments.
- (g) 1 topping up pump or bellows.
- (h) 1 daylight signalling mirror with instructions, printed in English and at least one of the other official languages of the Republic, on its use for signalling to ships and aircraft.
- (i) 1 whistle or equivalent sound signal.
- (j) 6 SAMSA-approved hand flares.
- (k) Instructions, printed in English and at least one of the other official languages of the Republic, on how to survive in the liferaft.

**ANNEX 3**  
**SMALL VESSEL PACK**

- (a) 1 buoyant rescue quoit, attached to a least 30 metres of buoyant line.
- (b) For liferafts permitted to accommodate not more than 12 persons, 1 safety knife and 1 bailer. For liferafts permitted to accommodate 13 persons or more, 2 safety knives and 2 bailers.
- (c) 2 sponges
- (d) 1 sea anchor, permanently attached to the liferaft.
- (e) 2 buoyant paddles.
- (f) 1 repair outfit capable of repairing punctures in buoyancy compartments.
- (g) 1 valve plug.
- (h) 1 topping up pump or bellows.
- (i) 2 rustproof graduated drinking vessels.
- (j) 1 waterproof electric torch suitable for Morse signalling together with 1 spare set of batteries and 1 spare bulb in a waterproof container.
- (k) 1 daylight signalling mirror with instructions, printed in English and at least one of the other official languages of the Republic, on its use for signalling to ships and aircraft.
- (l) 2 SAMSA-approved rocket parachute flares.
- (m) 3 SAMSA-approved hand flares.
- (n) 1 set of fishing tackle.
- (o) Watertight receptacles containing 0.5 litres of fresh water for each person the liferaft is permitted to accommodate.
- (p) 6 anti-seasickness tablets for each person the liferaft is permitted to accommodate.
- (q) Instructions, printed in English and at least one of the other official languages of the Republic, on how to survive in the liferaft.
- (r) 1 copy of the life-saving signals used by ships, aircraft, or persons in distress, as illustrated in the latest edition of the International Code of Signals published by the International Maritime Organization, on a waterproof card or in a waterproof container.

**ANNEX 4**  
**FIRST AID OUTFIT FOR LIFERAFT**  
*(The Ship's Medicines and Medical Appliances Regulations, 1991)*

<b>PART 1 — FIRST AID OUTFIT</b>		
<b>Article</b>	<b>Label</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Wound cleanser (cetrimide 1 % solution)	Wound cleaner	1 x 200 ml
Anti-seasickness tablets (promethazine theodate)	For seasickness	6 per person
Anti-seasickness suppositories	For seasickness	6 per person
Pain relief tables (e.g. paracetamol codeine combination)	For pain	50
Antiseptic burn/wound cream (providine)	For burns and wounds	25 gm
Ultraviolet sunscreen cream, tubes	For sunburn	2 x 20 g
Eyedrops (naphazoline)	Eye drops	10 ml
6 ampoules pentazocine 30 mg/ml ampoule	For severe pain	1 unit
Crepe bandage 75 mm x 6 m		1
Roller bandages 75 mm x 6 m		4
Large triangular bandages		2
Wound dressings 150 mm x 100 mm		3
Wound dressings 20 mm x 150 mm		2
Self-adhesive wound dressing, assorted		100
Scissors, stainless steel 100 mm, blunt/sharp		1
Safety pins, assorted, brass, large		1 packet

**PART 2 — FIRST AID OUTFIT**

The first aid outfit must be sealed in a waterproof container.  
The container must be clearly labelled with the list of contents and the expiry date.