



## RFBYC Explanatory Notes for Australian Sailing Special Regulations, Part 1 for Category 7 Compliance 2021- 2024

Our Club sailing is governed by Australian Sailing and they produce and administer the Racing Rules of Sailing and also the Special Regulations, most of which we are familiar with. They can be found here:

[Racing Rules of Sailing](#) (RRS)

[Special Regulations](#) (SR)

Under these supplementary Special Regulations, we are required to conform to certain equipment and safety standards in order to prevent or effectively deal with emergencies should they arise. Because the Swan River is a sheltered body of water our relevant races fall into their Category 7. However, from history, we know that accidents of varying seriousness can and do occasionally occur. The Special Regulations are in place to not only minimise risk and severity of these accidents but also to deal with them if they occur.

Compliance requirements for Category 7 can be found here:

[Special Regulations - Australian Sailing - Resources \(sailingresources.org.au\)](#)

In seasons past Club sailors have submitted a signed Cat 7 Audit Form stating compliance with those regulations and it has formed part of our nomination for the season's racing. The good news is that no part of that process changes and, from discussion, we all comply well. For the purposes of satisfactory compliance with the requirements, we now have trained volunteers who are qualified to carry out free audits on the Club's behalf. It is the responsibility of skippers or the persons in charge of all vessels to not only ensure that all safety equipment is onboard, in date, properly maintained and in service, but also that everybody on board knows where it is located and sufficient people are trained in the use of special equipment.

If you are concerned on any items of compliance life can be made easier by these few notes about where to look for explanations and answers to specific Regulations mentioned on the Cat 7 form:

- A very important point to make here is that not every item listed in the "Reg" column on the lower section of the Cat 7 form will apply to every boat. Note the words "if fitted". The words "If fitted" can save a lot of grief because they mean exactly that; if it's not fitted you don't have to comply.

- This Audit Form is very abbreviated in its wording. By accessing the Special Regulations document itself (see above) you can see the full text of the regulation wording and Category it applies to.
- Expiry dates on first aid items, fire extinguishers and lifejackets are important.
- First Aid items – ASSR, Part 1, Section 4.07. Check expiry dates on items but they may be compliant if “fit for purpose”.
- Cat 7 First Aid Kit - If you need a new kit the following sources are local:
  - I. Mosman Drive-In Chemist. [office@mosmandriveinchemist.com](mailto:office@mosmandriveinchemist.com) ph 9384 0219 for a complete Cat 7 compliant kit.
  - II. Whitworths Marine & Leisure ph 9385 5877 for a Cat 5-7 kit that requires minor additional items.
- Fire extinguishers – ASSR, Part 1, Section 4.04. These may be compliant if showing satisfactory pressure.
- Lifejackets – see ASSR, Part 1, Section 5.01.1. In particular look at 5.01.1(i) which identifies the AS4758-2015 or AS1512-1996 Type 1 or Type 2 as the minimum requirement. To check relevant standards, their currency status and their relationship see <https://www.standards.org.au/standards-catalogue/sa-snz/consumer/cs-060> or seek help from Google. Try typing the AS or ISO standard printed on your lifejacket with the word lifejacket into Google and follow the links.
- If contemplating offshore racing or night racing you should consider a higher Category compliance with lifejackets.
- Information on how to check your lifejacket can be found at: [https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/marine/MAC\\_B\\_Safety\\_Equipment\\_Lifejackets.pdf](https://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediaFiles/marine/MAC_B_Safety_Equipment_Lifejackets.pdf)
- Anchors - ASSR, Part 1, Section 4.05. The number of anchors and length of warp is determined from Table 1. The sizes of anchors, chain and warp are determined by either of Table 2 or 3 depending on boat length or boat displacement. You may choose the lesser from Tables 2 and 3.

Further general clarification may be found at:

<https://www.sailingresources.org.au/safety/equipment-audit-faq/>