

SOP 9.02 – Rescue Water Craft (Personal Water Craft Operations)

Section 9 – AMSAR Services

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Effective Date – 1 September 2018

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Electronically Controlled Document

Purpose

To outline the requirements for all operations in relation to Rescue Water Craft (RWC)

Scope

These procedure relate to all operational levels of Life Saving Victoria

Procedures

These procedures should be read in conjunction with the LSV Rescue Water Craft Management Policy.

Introduction

The Rescue Water Craft is a specialised item of rescue equipment used by Life Saving Victoria (LSV). LSV requires all RWC Operators to adhere to the established policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure safe and effective practices relating to RWC Operations.

Use of Rescue Water Craft:

Clubs and members are not permitted to operate, test or evaluate RWCs for lifesaving services or general lifesaving patrol work or commence training without the written approval of the Director – Lifesaving Services or their nominee.

Consideration will be given to services which patrol several areas or cover several locations. Approval for the use of such craft is more likely to be given to specialised or Lifesaving Operations services such as lifeguards, emergency callout services and event water safety services.

Rescue Water Craft Operations

- Unnecessary activity in close proximity to bathers and/or crowded areas should be avoided.
- RWC Operators should operate in a safe manner with concern not only for the general public, but with respect for the equipment as well.
- RWC Operators must operate within boating regulations when operating an RWC, including distance off requirements, unless in emergency situations and only then with careful regard for the public and themselves.
- All RWC operators must take reasonable care and responsibility to keep non RWC persons from accessing and operating RWC and ensuring the security of the craft and associated equipment (particularly the keys).

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- Lifesaving services and operators of RWC must conform to all rules and Award Regulations as defined by LSV and or SLSA.
- All RWC Operations in Victoria must comply with LSV's localised policies and procedures.
- LSVComms must be notified prior to a craft being launched for ANY REASON

Training & Assessment:

Approval:

- All RWC Training and Assessment must be approved prior to commencement by the LSV Director – Lifesaving Services.
- Training and Assessment can only be conducted by an appropriately qualified Trainer, Assessor or Facilitator who is endorsed by LSV.
- Only qualified RWC operators are to operate RWC unless for the purpose of training within an LSV approved training course and only under the direct supervision of qualified personnel.

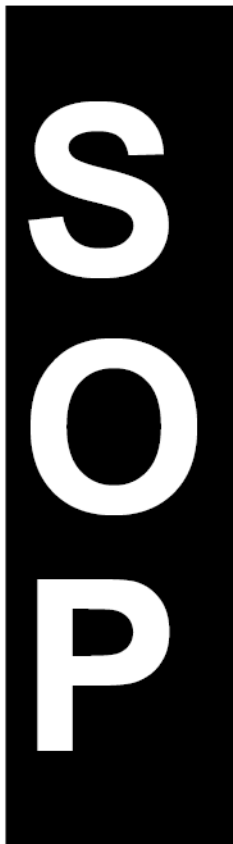
Training & Assessment Activity:

- A risk assessment needs to be conducted and recorded prior to practical RWC training commencing.
- Clubs and services must only train in conditions that are within the trainees, trainers and craft abilities and that are not excessive nor expose trainees, trainers or public to an excessive level of risk.
- All trainees must hold a Victorian PWC endorsed boating license prior to commencing any practical training.
- Trainee RWC training cannot occur during patrols or water safety activities.
- It is mandatory that during any RWC training sessions, any personnel in the water (acting as patient) wear an approved safety helmet that meets the EN1385 standard.
- Appropriate Signage should be erected where training or regular RWC patrol activity is taking place.

Rescue Water Craft Safety:

Safety Considerations:

- When undertaking an activity involving RWC, whether training, responding or another activity. Operators should consider how much risk they are exposing themselves to, as well as other members and the public. This should be weighed up against potential gains.
- LSVComms or a member situated on the shore should be notified prior to and post traversing a hazardous passage using a Rescue Water Craft.
- RWC Crew should not be carried routinely, other than during water safety for juniors or similar or during incident response If deemed appropriate. A standard crew briefing can be provided to non-qualified crew where required, to assist with incident response / rescue. A non RWC Qualified Crew person must at minimum be proficient in the SLSA Bronze



- Medallion.
- No RWC Operations are to take place during low light or at night under any circumstances.

RWC Equipment:

- An approved LSV Communications device must be carried at all times
- Craft and any associated equipment are to be approved for use under the appropriate equipment Policy.

Minimum Personal Protective Equipment:

- At all times whilst using an RWC, both operators and any crew must:
 - Wear an approved L50 Lifejacket (*Australian Standard: 4758 Personal Floatation Devices - Level 50 or International Standard: 12402:5 Personal Floatation Devices - Level 50*)
 - Wear an approved safety helmet which meets the EN 1385 Standard.
 - Wear wetsuit type shorts at minimum or another longer wetsuit product

Safety and Management

- All RWC are to have a Safety Management System document specific to that craft which is maintained in line with the services Safety Management Plan and LSV Requirements. This document does not need to be carried on board whilst operating on the water.

Accident Investigation:

- All incidents, accidents, non-conformances and near misses are to be reported appropriately according to [SLSA Guidelines for Safer Surf Clubs Safe Practices](#).

All incidents are to be recorded in the relevant logs.

