

# SOP 9.03 – Marine Rescue Vessels

Section 9 – AMSAR Services

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Effective Date – 1 September 2018

Review Date – 1 September 2020

Electronically Controlled Document

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## Purpose

To present the minimum requirements for all operations in relation to Marine Rescue Vessels (excluding IRB's & RWC's).

## Scope

These procedures relate to all operational levels of Life Saving Victoria.

## Procedures

All procedures within this SOP must be adhered to.

## Qualifications

### For a Vessel not in Current Survey

- The skipper, or any driver under instruction, must possess a valid state boating license whenever operating the craft
- The skipper and crew must be current members of a Life Saving Victoria affiliated club or service;
- The skipper must be qualified in the Certificate II – Transport and Distribution (Maritime Operations) or equivalent or endorsed by the Director – Lifesaving Services to operate that particular vessel.

### For a Vessel in current Survey

- The skipper must also hold a current Coxswains qualification or higher;
- The skipper and crew must be current members of a Life Saving Victoria affiliated club or service.

### All Vessels

- Rescue crewpersons must hold as a minimum a current Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic rescue) Bronze Medallion
- Other crewpersons must have completed the unit of competency “Survive at sea in the event of vessel abandonment” or equivalent, and have completed an induction by the skipper of the vessel as a minimum.

## Vessel Registration

- LSV Vessels are currently not required to be registered with VIC Roads or to be in Survey with Maritime Safety Victoria (MSV)

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- If the vessel is in current survey it must be registered with MSV and must also be entered in Surfguard
- If the vessel is not in current survey, it must be registered with LSV by entry into Surfguard, this registration will be allocated by LSV and must meet the requirements of Size, Colour and Location as required by VIC Roads.

## Pre-Operations

- Skippers must provide a safety briefing and induction of the vessel and equipment to all crew and passengers prior to getting underway in line with service operating procedures
- Vessels must operate in a safe manner with concern not only for the general public, but their crew and with respect for the vessel equipment, and always in accordance with procedures.
- All personnel are required to wear a L100 lifejacket at minimum and comply with any Marine Safety Victoria requirements at all times
- All vessels must operate with all safety and relevant equipment in line the vessels operational requirements

## Availability

- LSVComms (13 SURF) is to be notified if a vessel becomes unavailable or not operational. This may be due to vessel maintenance or the unavailability of qualified crew.

## Operations

- All 'near misses'/ Incidents are to be documented and logged and the relevant incident reporting procedures are to be followed
- The vessel must always be operated with a qualified skipper and minimum of one qualified crewperson.
- The skipper must always avoid operations in close proximity to bathers and/or crowded areas unless absolutely necessary and deemed safe.
- The crew must always be aware they are operating with no protection on the propellers.
- An approved LSV Radio must be carried on board and operational at all times.
- All relevant safety equipment to Maritime Safety Victoria survey standard must be carried at all times.
- The skipper and crew are highly recommended to wear Personal Location Beacon (PLB).
- LSVComms is to be notified upon tasking or launching of the vessel

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## Safety and Management

- All Vessels are to have a Safety Management System (SMS) document, relevant to that particular vessel which details the vessels operations, safety procedures and maintenance records. The Safety Management System should meet Maritime Safety Victoria's Requirements for Survey Standard.

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