

# SOP 9.03 – Marine Search and Rescue Vessels

Section 9 – AMSAR Services  
 Effective Date – 10 December 2020

Page 1 of 3  
 Review Date – 10 December 2022

Electronically Controlled Document

## Purpose

To present the minimum requirements for all operations in relation to marine rescue vessels, excluding Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRB) and Rescue Water Craft (RWC).

## Scope

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) applies to all LSV personnel; paid staff, officers and volunteer members of Life Saving Victoria.

## Policy Statement

Life Saving Victoria requires all Members to adhere to the established policies, procedures and guidelines to ensure safe and effective practices relating to Marine Search and Rescue operations.

## Definitions

Name	Definition
LSV	Life Saving Victoria
MSAR	Marine Search and Rescue
RWC	Rescue Water Craft



## Procedure

### Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue Vessels (MSAR)

MSAR Vessels, Masters & Crew are regulated by Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law sets minimum competency and requirements for training, vessel construction, and safety.

MSAR vessels must have current Certificate of Survey (COS) & Certificate of Operation (COO) issued by Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

Vessels having a current COS not required to be registered with VicRoads.

## Mandatory Licences/Certificates

All Masters, Crew and those in training on LSV MSAR vessels shall have the following licences/certificates.

- Victorian Marine Licence
- First Aid HLTAID003 Minimum
- Bronze Medallion
- Long Range Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency
- Working with Children

## Qualifications

Standards for Master's & Crew in the Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) sector.

AMSA Exemption 24 (Emergency Services Vessels) allows the operation of Volunteer Marine Rescue vessels which are classified as Domestic Commercial Vessels (DCV), without the requirement to hold formal certificates of competency normally required. AMSA Exemption 24 permits training and competency to an equivalent standard with various Maritime Training Package (MAR) Units in addition to further training required by the MSAR sector.

## Pre-operations

- Skippers/Crew must provide a safety briefing to all passengers, prior to getting underway in accordance with Safety Management Plan applicable to the vessel being used. All passengers are required to follow crew(s) instructions at all times.
- Vessels must operate in a safe manner with concern not only for the general public but their crew and with respect to the vessel equipment, and this should always be done in accordance with procedures.
- All personnel are required to wear a L100 lifejacket at minimum and comply with any MSV requirements at all times.
- All vessels must operate with all safety and relevant equipment in line with the vessel's 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 MSV survey standard must be carried at all times.

- It is highly recommended that the skipper and crew wear a personal location beacon (PLB).
- LSVComms is to be notified upon tasking or launching of the vessel.

## Safety

- All vessels are to have an SMS document relevant to that particular vessel and which details the vessels operations, safety procedures and maintenance records. The SMS should meet MSV's requirements for survey standard.

<b>Reference</b>	
Related Documents	LSV Rescue Water Craft (RWC) Safety Management System
	MSAR Safety Management System
Legislation	Australian Standard AS 4758:1:2015 Personal Floatation Devices - Type 3 - Victoria

<b>Review</b>	
Date of Issue	10 December 2020
Date Effective	26 December 2020
Date to be Reviewed	1 July 2022
Date to Cease	10 December 2022

<b>Authority</b>
The Life Saving Operations Council Executive has approved this SOP under section 8.3.6(e) of the Life Saving Victoria By-laws, 2019.

