

SOLAS CHAPTER III, Regulation 7

1 Lifebuoys

1.1 Lifebuoys complying with the requirements of paragraph 2.1.1 of the Code shall be:

.1 so distributed as to be readily available on both sides of the ship and as far as practicable on all open decks extending to the ship's side; at least one shall be placed in the vicinity of the stern; and

.2 so stowed as to be capable of being rapidly cast loose, and not permanently secured in any way.

1.2 At least one lifebuoy on each side of the ship shall be fitted with a buoyant lifeline complying with the requirements of paragraph 2.1.4 of the Code equal in length to not less than twice the height at which it is stowed above the waterline in the lightest seagoing condition, or 30 m, whichever is the greater.

1.3 Not less than one half of the total number of lifebuoys shall be provided with lifebuoy self-igniting lights complying with the requirements of paragraph 2.1.2 of the Code; not less than two of these shall also be provided with lifebuoy self-activating smoke signals complying with the requirements of paragraph 2.1.3 of the Code and be capable of quick release from the navigation bridge; lifebuoys with lights and those with lights and smoke signals shall be equally distributed on both sides of the ship and shall not be the lifebuoys provided with lifelines in compliance with the requirements of paragraph 1.2.

1.4 Each lifebuoy shall be marked in block capitals of the Roman alphabet with the name and port of registry of the ship on which it is carried.

Regulation 22 - Personal Life-Saving Appliances

1 Lifebuoys

1.1 A passenger ship shall carry not less than the number of lifebuoys complying with the requirements of [regulation 7.1](#) and section 2.1 of the Code prescribed in the following table:

Length of ship in metres	Minimum number of lifebuoys
Under 60	8
60 and under 120	12
120 and under 180	18
180 and under 240	24
240 and over	30

1.2 Notwithstanding [regulation 7.1.3](#), passenger ships of under 60 m in length shall carry not less than six lifebuoys provided with self-igniting lights.

SOLAS CHAPTER III, Regulation 32

1 Lifebuoys

1.1 Cargo ships shall carry not less than the number of lifebuoys complying with the requirements of [regulation 7.1](#) and section 2.1 of the Code prescribed in the following table:

Length of ship in metres	Minimum number of lifebuoys
Under 100	8
100 and under 150	10
150 and under 200	12
200 and over	14

1.2 Self-igniting lights for lifebuoys on tankers required by regulation 7.1.3 shall be of an electric battery type.

LIFE SAVING APPLIANCE CODE

CHAPTER II

Personal Life-Saving Appliances

2.1 Lifebuoys

2.1.1 Lifebuoy specification

Every lifebuoy shall:

- .1 have an outer diameter of not more than 800 mm and an inner diameter of not less than 400 mm;
- .2 be constructed of inherently buoyant material; it shall not depend upon rushes, cork shavings or granulated cork, any other loose granulated material or any air compartment which depends on inflation for buoyancy;
- .3 be capable of supporting not less than 14.5 kg of iron in fresh water for a period of 24 h;
- .4 have a mass of not less than 2.5 kg;
- .5 not sustain burning or continue melting after being totally enveloped in a fire for a period of 2 s;
- .6 be constructed to withstand a drop into the water from the height at which it is stowed above the waterline in the lightest seagoing condition or 30 m, whichever is the greater, without impairing either its operating capability or that of its attached components;
- .7 if it is intended to operate the quick release arrangement provided for the self-activated smoke signals and self-igniting lights, have a mass of not less than 4 kg; and
- .8 be fitted with a grabline not less than 9.5 mm in diameter and not less than 4 times the outside diameter of the body of the buoy in length. The grabline shall be secured at four equidistant points around the circumference of the buoy to form four equal loops.

2.1.2 Lifebuoy self-igniting lights

Self-igniting lights required by regulation III/7.1.3 shall:

- .1 be such that they cannot be extinguished by water;
- .2 be of white colour and capable of either burning continuously with a luminous intensity of not less than 2 cd in all directions of the upper hemisphere or flashing (discharge flashing) at a rate of not less than 50 flashes and not more than 70 flashes per min with at least the corresponding effective luminous intensity;
- .3 be provided with a source of energy capable of meeting the requirement of paragraph 2.1.2.2 for a period of at least 2 h; and
- .4 be capable of withstanding the drop test required by paragraph 2.1.1.6.

2.1.3 Lifebuoy self-activating smoke signals

Self-activating smoke signals required by regulation III/7.1.3 shall:

- .1 emit smoke of a highly visible colour at a uniform rate for a period of at least 15 min when floating in calm water;

- .2 not ignite explosively or emit any flame during the entire smoke emission time of the signal;
- .3 not be swamped in a seaway;
- .4 continue to emit smoke when fully submerged in water for a period of at least 10 s;
- .5 be capable of withstanding the drop test required by paragraph 2.1.1.6. and
- .6 be provided with a quick-release arrangement that will automatically release and activate the signal and associated self-igniting light connected to a lifebuoy having a mass of not more than 4 kg.

2.1.4 *Buoyant lifelines*

Buoyant lifelines required by regulation III/7.1.2 shall:

- .1 be non-kinking;
- .2 have a diameter of not less than 8 mm; and
- .3 have a breaking strength of not less than 5 kN.