



Victoria Government Gazette

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Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Marine (Personal Flotation Devices and Other Safety Equipment) Regulations 2005

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in connection with the proposed Marine (Personal Flotation Devices and Other Safety Equipment) Regulations 2005.

Marine Safety Victoria has prepared the draft Marine (Personal Flotation Devices and Other Safety Equipment) Regulations 2005. This RIS is concerned with these proposed Regulations. The proposal addresses a public safety issue that has been highlighted by the Victorian Coroner and will reduce the risk of recreational boating related deaths. In addition, the proposed regulations include other miscellaneous amendments relating to the carriage of safety equipment and operation of trading vessels transiting through Port Phillip Heads and crossing Lakes Entrance Bar.

The objectives of the proposed Regulations are to amend the Marine Regulations 1999 to:

- make provision in relation to the wearing of personal flotation devices by people who are operating, on board, or being towed by, recreational vessels;
- make further provision in relation to the equipment which is required to be carried on board recreational vessels, in line with the National Standard for Recreational Boat Safety Equipment;
- prescribe new requirements about the carriage of Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs);
- make other miscellaneous amendments in relation to the operation of trading vessels crossing Port Phillip Heads and Lakes Entrance Bar.

The RIS assesses the costs and benefits of the proposed Regulations and other alternative means of achieving the same objectives. It concludes that the proposed regulations are preferable to the alternatives as the expected benefits will exceed costs. The main benefit of the proposed regulations for the compulsory wearing of personal flotation devices is the estimated savings in lives lost.

The updated safety equipment requirements will improve the safety of recreational boating by requiring modern equipment to be carried and addresses identified risks by vessel type and area of operation.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au or directly from Marine Safety Victoria (email: pdfreview@doi.vic.gov.au or telephone: 1800 223 022).

Written submissions are invited from any interested industry, stakeholder or community group and from the public in relation to any matter relevant to the proposed Regulations. Submissions must be received by 5.00 pm on Monday 24 October 2005. Submissions should be marked "Marine (Personal Flotation Devices and Other Safety Equipment) Regulations – Submission" and submitted to: Marine Safety Victoria, PO Box 2797, Melbourne, Vic. 3001 or by email to pdfreview@doi.vic.gov.au or by fax (03) 9655 6611.

All comments and submissions will be treated as public documents. Any enquiries regarding the content of the RIS should be directed to 1800 223 022.

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