



SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA POLICY STATEMENT DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF RESCUE TUBES

POLICY
NUMBER
1.7
JULY
2009

INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the minimum standard for design and manufacture of rescue tubes.

FLEXIBLE RESCUE TUBE SPECIFICATION

Rescue tubes must meet the specifications outlined in the Australian Standard 2259 – General Requirement for Buoyancy Aids.

MATERIAL:

The material is to be closed cell plastic foam and both durable and flexible. The material is to be as specified in Australian Standard AS 2259 (Burnside Exempt).

BOUYANCY:

The rescue tube is to have a minimum buoyancy factor of 100 newtons in freshwater.

COLOUR:

The body of the rescue tube is to be colour fast, either impregnated, painted or possibly covered and either red, yellow or orange as per Australian Standard AS 1318.

FLEXIBILITY:

The body of the rescue tube should be able to flex in half with a force of between 5-6 kilograms.

WEIGHT:

The total weight of the tube should be between 600-750 grams.

HARDNESS:

The hardness of the tube should measure between 2-4 Duros.

STRENGTH (STRESS):

Webbing, leash and fittings are to be able to withstand a minimum 454.55 kilograms (1000 pounds) of stress without damage in a longitudinal direction.

STITCHING/THREAD:

Stitching to be a locked stitched type 301 of BS 3870 as illustrated in Australian Standard AS 2259. The thread is to have similar properties to the materials being sewn.

DIMENSIONS/DESIGN: (please refer to drawing at the end of the policy)

The body of the tube (flotation component):

Length: minimum length 875mm - maximum length 1000mm

Breadth: maximum breadth 150mm

Thickness: maximum thickness 100mm

Diameter (if circular): maximum diameter of 125mm

LEASH:

The length of the leash is to be a minimum of 1900mm with a maximum of 2100mm.

The leash shall be a synthetic type rope which is UV treated.

WEBBING CONNECTIONS:

Webbing used for the connection of 'O' rings/clips to the body of the tube will be 25mm wide woven nylon (synthetic).

LANYARD:

Webbing for the lanyard is to be 50mm woven nylon with a minimum length of 1900mm and a maximum of 2100mm. If it is to be used as a waist strap it must include a "Fastex Buckle", with a minimum breaking strain of 315Kg.

Any other means of attaching the leash with the buoy to the rescuer would need to be approved by SLSA before fitting.

'O' RINGS:

'O' rings to be brass, stainless steel (welded) or nylon. In the case of nylon, they must be UV treated.

'O' rings are to be 37.5mm in diameter with no sharp edges or protrusions that may cut or injure the rescuer or patient.

(i) The distance between the extremity of the clip and the first 'O' ring, shall be a minimum of 1100mm with a maximum of 1400mm.

(ii) The distance between the extremity of the clip and the second 'O' ring, shall be a minimum of 1300mm with a maximum of 1650mm.

These two 'o' ring stations shall appear, but further stations in either direction can be added.

CLIPS:

The clip shall be a stainless steel snap hook KS2470-70 with an overall length of 70mm. It shall have no sharp edges or protrusions that may cut or injure the rescuer or patient.

BRANDING:

The branding of the tube should be as per the SLSA Brandbox.

BATCH NUMBER:

Each rescue tube shall be imprinted with a batch number for easy identification of date of manufacture.

APPROVAL OF RESCUE TUBES:

Manufacturers wishing to supply rescue tubes for surf lifesaving are required to comply with policy 1.6 New and Modified Equipment.