



# SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA POLICY STATEMENT SUPPLY AND USE OF RESCUE WATER CRAFT

POLICY  
NUMBER  
**4.4**  
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## SCOPE

This policy specifies the requirements for RWC's (Rescue Water Craft) as used in surf lifesaving operations. This policy includes general specifications (including type; size; and engine capacity of craft), warranty and user requirements.

## OBJECTIVE

To provide a suitable rescue craft to support Surf Life Saving service operations.

## USE IN SURF LIFESAVING

The RWC is referred to as an RWC (Rescue Water Craft) when used for lifesaving purposes.

The RWC's are to be operated under the auspices of a special operations/service/system and endorsed by the State Director of Lifesaving, or state equivalent, who shall undertake the monitoring of each craft's operation..

The SLSA minimum pre-requisites for the RWC Operator are as follows:

- Be a minimum of 18 yrs old on the date of final assessment
- Hold a current SLSA Bronze Medallion/Certificate II in Public Safety (Aquatic Rescue)
- Hold a current state/territory boat/PWC licence (where applicable)
- Have a vehicle licence to operate a tow vehicle or allow exemption from State Director of Lifesaving

The State Lifesaving Director may also include the following units for RWC operating in certain areas:

- Hold a current SLSA Silver Medallion (Advanced Emergency Care)
- Hold a current SLSA Silver Medallion (Patrol Captain)
- Hold a current SLSA Silver Medallion (IRB Drivers)
- Advanced Resuscitation Certificate
- First Aid Certificate

## OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

RWC must be capable of –

- i. Being launched by 2 persons;
- ii. Operated by one person;
- iii. Towing an approved rescue sled with at least 2 persons on the sled;
- iv. High speed manoeuvrability in white water;
- v. Low speed manoeuvrability
- vi. Operating in shallow waters

Desirable if the craft has the following features–

- i. Capable of high-speed response (up to 1NM offshore);
- ii. Comfortable for extended periods of riding;
- iii. Fuel economical;
- iv. Has noise-reduction technology

## **SPECIFICATIONS**

### **(a) General:**

The RWC shall have a minimum vehicle capacity of 240kg.

The RWC shall have positive buoyancy and pass any applicable state law in regards to bouancy of a rescue craft.

RWC's may have forward gear only or may also have the capability to reverse.

The fuel system must prevent fuel vapours from being released into the bilge area. Fuel filter/Water separator may be fitted.

It must be fitted with a flamer arrestor to extinguish fire or flames that may be pushed out of the engine during a backfire condition.

The carburettor or fuel injection must operate in conjunction with a variable rate oil injection system on 2 stroke models.

The engine capacity shall be a minimum 700cc with a maximum rating of 150hp, unless State Director of Lifesaving allows otherwise

The system must be accompanied by an overheat sensor to detect overheating.

Only RWC models approved by SLSA, or under approved trial by SLSA, may be used for surf life saving activities.

### **(b) The Hull:**

The hull shall be constructed of a material in accordance with ISO standards of construction of jet ski's.

The exterior finish must provide a protective barrier against salt water and sun.

The hull must have a central towing point at the rear of the craft with the ability to have additional stabilising points on the outer extremities.

The RWC must have a towing hitch at the bow and is recommended an operator handling strap be attached to this.

It is recommended RWC's are fitted with a keel guard to the underside of the RWC along the centreline to protect hull from general wear and tear and running the RWC up the beach. The keel guard should run from below the front tow hook to the

water intake (grill). The keel guard is a 3M product and can be purchased from local RWC dealers or a fiberglass/resin/adhesive/additive material can be used to build up the keel.

Grab straps are optional and can be fitted to either side of the RWC along the top of the outer edge of the foot wells. The straps are to be made from 38mm marine grade webbing enclosed in a PVC coating (similar to rescue board straps). There should be a total of at least 6 loops either side of the RWC, 250mm wide and 100mm high fastened to the forward and rear of the foot wells of the RWC by pop rivets (either aluminium or stainless steel) through a PVC washer.

### **(c) Propulsion:**

The propulsion system must be of jet pump type with axial flow and of a single stage, it must have a direct drive transmission and be made from materials which reduce saltwater corrosion. It must be a suitable design and be able to operate in extreme conditions and be able to be replenished at minimum cost.

The water intake grill must be properly installed and blend in with the inlet flow restrictions. The water inlet and ride plate surfaces should be sealed and blended. Scoop grates or similar are dangerous and are not to be fitted on any SLSA RWC.

The system should also encompass a vacuum or electric operated bilge system. Electric operated bilge system may be used as a secondary bilge system.

### **(d) Ignition:**

The RWC shall have a battery charging system and have an electromotive force of 12 volts.

All switches accessories and harnesses must be sealed and fused.

The ignition system must be a CDI unit with the resistor caps and plugs to to minimise RFI.

### **(e) Steering and Cabinets:**

It is recommended that RWC's be fitted with thumb or finger throttle controls.

It is recommended that RWC's be fitted with straps to prevent front bonnet from dislodging and wind catching and dislodging.

### **(f) Fuel:**

The RWC must have a fuel capacity of a minimum of 50 litres and shall have a reserve tank fitted.

## PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Operators shall at all times wear the following PPE whilst operating an RWC:

- Approved PFD (type 2) as per state regulations
- Radio on the driver
- Approved Protective head gear/helmet (eg. Gath helmet or similar)

The following items are recommended:

- i. Wetsuits
- ii. Water shoes/boots/sandals
- iii. Gloves

## ON BOARD EQUIPMENT

The following equipment **shall** be carried on board the RWC:

- i. Rescue tube
- ii. Spare lanyard
- iii. Bum bag/Mask
- iv. Whistle attached to PFD
- v. Spare bungs

The following items are **recommended**:

- i. Knife
- ii. Goggles
- iii. Snorkel
- iv. Basic spanner and clean spark plugs
- v. First Aid kit
- vi. Throw rope bag
- vii. Waterproof bag

The following items are **optional**:

- i. Swim fins
- ii. Fire extinguisher
- iii. EPIRB
- iv. Bilge pump

## SIGNAGE

The RWC shall be sign written with SURF RESCUE or LIFEGUARD in 150mm high minimum in red on a yellow background on both sides of the hull and SURF RESCUE or LIFEGUARD in 100mm in red on yellow background shall be displayed on top cowling section for aerial viewing.

## WARRANTY / MAINTENANCE

The RWC shall be covered by the manufacturer and the SLSA manufacturers agreement. The dealer must be approved by the manufacture of the RWC and have the ability to service and maintain the RWC to the highest possible standard. They must be able to perform warranty work.

## RESCUE SLED

## **(a) General**

The sled shall have the following design characteristics: Construction shall be by either method urethane Foam with an ABS Plastic coated finish with EVA Foam decking, laminated closed cell foam core, with semi flexible polyurethane coating with EVA decking, or polyethylene closed cell foam with carbon stinger core or BUA closed cell or PE close cell foam.

All materials used for the manufacture of the sleds shall be resistant to UV and saltwater.

The sled shall be a minimum size of:

Length: 1500mm (maximum: 1800mm)

Width: 800mm (maximum: 1100mm)

Thickness: 80mm

The size will differ when using different brands of RWC's, but will not be below the above minimum sizes.

The straps/ropes will be attached to each side of the rescue sled and run the length and top edge of the sled. The covering over the straps/ropes shall be UV stabilized.

## **(b) Sled Attachment Points**

There shall be three sled attachment points made from stainless steel and sealed against water ingress. One attachment point is in central rear and one each side on rear of craft.

Rubber or plastic or other suitable material may be attached to the rear of the RWC to prevent wear from the sled.

## **TRAILER (ROAD) SPECIFICATIONS**

The trailer should be a deluxe multi-roller road trailer suitable for a RWC use. The trailer is to be fully galvanized, or alloy, including the wheel rims, springs, axle and hubs.

## **APPROVED CRAFT**

Current SLSA Approved RWC's are on the SLSA website [www.slsa.asn.au](http://www.slsa.asn.au).