



## Surf Life Saving Australia – Circular

August 2009

# SPINAL KITS COMPULSORY FOR LIFESAVING PATROLS

<b>Document id</b> 07/09-10	<b>Audience</b> State/territory centres, Branches, Directors of Lifesaving, Club Captains & Gear Stewards.
<b>Department</b> Lifesaving	

### Summary

This circular is a reminder to clubs/services about the introduction of spinal kits as compulsory items of all Australian beach patrols.

The circular also confirms that spinal blocks are *not* a compulsory component of the spinal kit. The compulsory items of a spinal care kit include spinal board, spinal collars and straps.

A spinal kit is now a compulsory item for all beach patrols in Australia. First aid statistics gathered from our patrolled beaches indicate that these items are crucial lifesaving tools that will assist patrols members in providing essential first aid and emergency support on the beach.

As a minimum requirement, a spinal kit consists of a spinal board, spinal collars and straps.

Spinal blocks may also be purchased and used on patrols although these are *not* compulsory items as otherwise indicated in the earlier circular 43/08-09.

Spinal board, spinal collars and straps are to be introduced to patrols by the official gear inspection dates of the 2009/2010 patrolling season. Manufacturer details for approved spinal kits and defibrillator units can be found on the SLSA website under quick links - admin and resources - gear and equipment - approved gear and equipment.