



Tonga

SHIPPING (LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES) REGULATIONS

Chapter 48.18.1

2016 Revised Edition



SHIPPING (LIFE SAVING APPLIANCES) REGULATIONS¹

Made under section 28 of the shipping act

Commencement [2nd May, 1958]

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1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Shipping (Life Saving Appliances) Regulations.
 - (2) In these regulations unless the context otherwise requires or admits the following expressions shall have the following meanings —
 - “**approved**” means approved by the Chief Harbour Master;
 - “**length**” as applied to a ship means registered length;
 - “**person**” means a person over the age of one year;
 - “**home trade**” means a vessel registered in Tonga which is employed solely in trading or going between any ports or places within the Kingdom of Tonga;
 - “**international vessel**” means any vessel not included in the term “**home trade vessel**”;
 - “**lifeboat**” means a lifeboat within the requirements of regulation 2(1) of these regulations;
 - “**lifebuoy**” means a lifebuoy within the requirements of regulation 2(2) of these regulations;
 - “**lifejacket**” means a lifejacket within the requirements of regulation 2(3) of these regulations.
 2. (1) A lifeboat shall be not less than 16 feet in length, be attached to a set of davits, and be approved by the Chief Harbour Master as a lifeboat.

- (2) A lifebuoy shall be made of solid cork, or other material capable of floating in fresh water for at least 24 hours with 32lbs. of iron suspended from it, and shall be approved by the Chief Harbour Master as a lifebuoy.
- (3) A life jacket shall be capable of being fitted on the body, and be capable of floating in fresh water with 16½ lbs. of iron suspended from it, shall be reversible and suitable for both children and adults, and shall be approved by the Chief Harbour Master as a lifejacket provided that no life jacket shall be approved if the buoyancy of the same is dependent on air compartments.

PROVISION OF LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES

3. (1) The lifeboats and buoyant apparatus in a ship shall be readily available in case of emergency and shall be adequate.
- (2) To ensure that they are readily available, the lifeboats and buoyant apparatus shall comply with the following conditions—
 - (a) they must be capable of being put into the water rapidly yet safely even under unfavourable conditions of list and trim;
 - (b) it must be possible to effect embarkation into the boats rapidly and in good order;
 - (c) the arrangement of each boat and article of buoyant apparatus must be such that it will not interfere with the operation of other boats and buoyant apparatus.

VESSELS OF CLASS I

4. (1) This regulation refers to steam vessels and motor vessels of not less than 100 nett registered tons carrying more than 12 passengers on home trade or international voyages.
- (2) Every vessel to which this regulation applies shall carry two boats attached to davit, - one on each side of the vessel-for use in an emergency.
- (3) At least one of the lifeboats required to be carried by this regulation shall be a motor lifeboat and shall be fitted with an approved radio telegraphy apparatus.
- (4) Every vessel to which this regulation applies shall carry at least the number of lifebuoys determined in accordance with the following table—

Length of ship	Number of Lifebuoys
Under 100 feet	2
100 feet but under 200 feet	4
200 feet but under 300 feet	6
- (5) Every vessel to which the regulation applies shall carry one lifejacket for each person the vessel is certified to carry.

VESSELS OF CLASS II

5. (1) This regulation refers to motorships or sailing vessels under 100 but more than 20 nett registered tons carrying any number of passengers and/or crew on home trade or international voyages.
- (2) Every vessel to which this regulation applies shall carry at least one lifeboat.
- (3) Every vessel to which this regulation applies shall carry at least two lifebuoys.
- (4) Every vessel to which this regulation applies shall carry one lifejacket for each person the ship is certified to carry.

VESSELS OF CLASS III

6. (1) This regulation refers to power driven vessels or vessels under oars or sails of less than 20 nett registered tons carrying any number of passengers and/or crew on home trade voyages only.
- (2) Every vessel to which this regulation applies shall carry at least one lifebuoy.
- (3) Every vessel to which this regulation applies shall carry one life jacket for each passenger and crew member which the vessel is certified to carry.
- (4) Vessels of Class III will not be permitted to sail beyond the home trade limits without a certificate signed by the Chief Harbour Master and Collector of Customs.

EQUIPMENT OF BOATS

General Equipment of Lifeboats

7. Subject as hereinafter provided the equipment of every lifeboat carried in pursuance of these regulations shall be as follows —
 - (a) a single banked complement of oars, two spare oars and a steering oar;
 - (b) two plugs for each plug hole attached to the boat with lanyards or chains;
 - (c) a line securely becketed round the outside of the boat;
 - (d) an approved compass in binnacle with means of illumination;
 - (e) a sea anchor of approved size, a bailer, a galvanised iron bucket, a rudder and tiller, two painters of sufficient length and a boat hook;
 - (f) a mast with wire stays together with sails (coloured bright red) and proper gear. The sails must be marked in an approved manner for identification purposes;
 - (g) an approved first aid outfit in a watertight case;

- (h) pyrotechnic signals of an approved type and number (for night time use) in watertight cases. The signals shall be clearly labelled with instructions as to their use;
- (i) two buoyant smoke signals of an approved type (for day use) in watertight cases. The signals shall be clearly labelled with instructions as to their use;
- (j) an electric torch suitable for morse signalling;
- (k) a lantern of approved type trimmed with oil in its receiver sufficient to burn for eight hours; and a box of suitable matches in a watertight case;
- (l) one hatchet;
- (m) one light heaving line.

Lifeboat Rations

8. (1) Subject to subparagraph (2) of this regulation every lifeboat carried in compliance with these regulations shall be provided with at least the rations specified in the following scale for each person the boat is deemed fit to carry —
- (a) 112 ozs. of fresh water;
 - (b) 14 ozs. of biscuits;
 - (c) 14 ozs. of barley sugar;
 - (d) 14 ozs. of sweetened condensed milk of first quality.
- (2) In case of lifeboats of vessels of Classes I and II which do not proceed outside home trade limits, the Chief Harbour Master may allow the rations specified in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of subparagraph (1) of this regulation to be dispensed with.
- (3) The water shall be kept in the boat in containers of approved size, design and construction, and there shall be provided at least one dipper, 3 rust-proof drinking vessels and a graduate measured in ½, 1 and 2ozs. The water shall be frequently changed to ensure that it is always clean and fit for drinking.

Portable Radio Equipment

9. The portable radio telegraphy apparatus to be carried in pursuance of regulation 4(3) (Vessels of Class I) of these regulations shall comply with the following requirements —
- (a) the apparatus shall be capable of transmitting and receiving on frequencies of 500 kilocycles;
 - (b) it shall be designed that it may be used in an emergency by an unskilled person and the transmitter shall be fitted with means for the automatic transmission of the distress signal and the alarm signal as well as a key for manual transmission.

- (c) the apparatus shall be watertight and capable of floating in sea water and capable of being dropped into the sea from a height of 20 feet without damage. It shall be of such weight and so arranged that it can readily be carried into the lifeboat in which it is to be used.
10. (1) The Harbour Master may in his discretion approve the use of inflatable rubber life-saving rafts, or any other type of life-saving rafts in place of lifeboats.
- (2) Such approval shall be in writing and shall state specifically the number of life-saving rafts which shall be carried in any case and the condition under which the same may be used.
11. (1) Any master or person in charge of a vessel who takes or attempts to take to sea any such vessel while the same does not comply with any of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) Any master or person in charge of a vessel who takes or attempts to take to sea any such vessel while the same is equipped with any life-saving equipment which does not comply with any of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence.
- (3) The penalty for any offence against these regulations shall be a fine not exceeding the sum of T\$50 or in default of payment imprisonment for a period not exceeding 6 months or both such fine and imprisonment

ENDNOTES

¹ GS 13/1958

Made under section 28 of the Shipping Act, 1927 and deemed to have been made under the Shipping Act by section 202 of Act 11 of 1972.