

## Helpful Hints for your Category 5 Audit

### Why do I need Category 5 and not Category 7 ?

Category 7 only covers items required for enclosed waters (i.e. Pittwater).

If you want to venture out into Broken Bay and the Estuary within 2 miles from shore then you need to meet Category 5 requirements. Most of this equipment is also required by NSW Maritime if you were just out for a cruise.

Note that any items marked (N) are only required for night sailing.

In addition to the items mentioned for Category 7 you will need the following:

**3.19 Compass.** A magnetic steering compass that does not rely on a source of power to operate. Should be at or near the steering position.

An adequate map or chart of Broken Bay is also required by NSW Maritime.

### **4.26 Man Overboard Retrieval Gear.**

You must have some method of retrieving a person from the water back on board your vessel. There are a number of methods and none are foolproof but the most common recommended method is the MOB Retriever float.

Not only is it a retrieval sling but also a float so can double up as the lifebuoy you need for both Category 7 and Category 5 (4.21.1).

New ones are expensive so have a look at Boat Locker at Warriewood (Unit 16, 2 Apollo St 9979 8278) for a second hand unit at half the price.

Remember they have no expiry date so you only have to buy this once.

**3.25 Radio Transceiver.** Either a 27 MHz or VHF Radio (preferred) so you can keep in touch with the rest of the fleet and also call for help if needed.

If the antenna is mounted on the top of the mast then an emergency antenna is recommended for that unexpected dismasting.

Don't forget that a mobile phone can also be used in an emergency and you'll need it to SMS your race time to the handicapper.

**3.25 Weather Broadcast Receiver.** A simple AM/FM radio can be used to listen in to weather forecasts so you have some idea of what is coming.

Also handy for the footy scores.

**4.02 Plugs for Seacocks.** Common sense really and a very inexpensive item.

Don't forget the wooden mallet to drive them home.

**4.15 Tools.** It may seem obvious but you need some means of severing the rigging in case of a dismasting. A hacksaw is fine but you will need plenty of spare blades.

**5.01 PFD's.** There must be at least one PFD (Personal Floatation Device) per person on board. If your vessel does not have Stanchions & Lifelines then **all members** of the crew must be **wearing their PFD at all times** while outside Pittwater.

It is recommended that they also be worn while in Pittwater.

**3.12 Pulpits, Stanchions & Lifelines.** If these are fitted they must meet 3.12.

Specifically any lifelines fitted after 1999 must be uncoated stranded stainless steel wire (3.12.6)

**Note Liferafts** are required by NSW Maritime on vessels over 12 meters in length venturing out of Pittwater.

**4.24 Storm & Heavy Weather Sails.** Each vessel should have a heavy weather jib and either a trysail or mainsail with reef points to reduce the mainsail luff by 25%.