



Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Part 91 (General Operating and Flight Rules)

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Division 26.14 Equipment for flights over water

26.55 Sea anchors etc. and sound signals — seaplanes, amphibians and certain rotorcraft

- (1) This section applies to a flight of an aircraft if:
 - (a) the aircraft is a seaplane, an amphibian, or a rotorcraft designed to take off from, and land on, water or land; and
 - (b) the flight involves take-off from, or landing on, water.
- (2) When the aircraft begins the flight, it must carry the following:
 - (a) a sea anchor;
 - (b) other equipment for mooring.
- (3) If the flight is conducted on or over water to which the International Regulations apply, the aircraft must carry equipment for making the sound signals required by the International Regulations for the flight.

Note The expression **International Regulations** is defined in the CASR Dictionary.

26.56 Life jackets — carriage requirements

- (1) This section applies to an aircraft flight:
 - (a) if the aircraft is a seaplane or an amphibian; or
 - (b) for a single-engine aircraft that is not a seaplane or an amphibian — if, during the flight, the aircraft is flown further over water than the distance from which, with the engine inoperative, the aircraft could reach an area of land that is suitable for a forced landing; or
 - (c) for a multi-engine aircraft that is not a seaplane or an amphibian — if during the flight the aircraft is flown more than 50 NM from an area of land that is suitable for a forced landing.
- (2) When the aircraft begins the flight, it must carry the following:
 - (a) for each infant on board — a life jacket, or another equally effective flotation device, that may have a whistle;
 - (b) for each other person on board — a life jacket that must have a whistle.
- (3) This section does not apply if:
 - (a) the aircraft is flown over water for the purpose of climbing after take-off from, or descending to land at, an aerodrome; and
 - (b) the aircraft is flown in accordance with a navigational procedure that is normal for the climb or descent at the aerodrome.

26.57 Stowage of life jackets

- (1) This section applies to an aircraft that is required to carry a life jacket or a flotation device under this Division.
- (2) When the aircraft begins the flight, then, unless the life jacket or flotation device is being worn:
 - (a) each infant's life jacket or flotation device must be stowed where it is readily accessible by an adult responsible for the infant, in the event of an emergency evacuation; and
 - (b) each other person's life jacket must be stowed where it is readily accessible from the person's seat in the event of an emergency evacuation.

26.58 Wearing life jackets — aircraft generally

- (1) Subject to section 26.59, a person (other than an infant) on board a single-engine aircraft must wear a life jacket if the flight is over water that is further than the distance from which, with the engine inoperative, the aircraft could reach land.
- (2) A person (other than an infant) on board a rotorcraft must wear a life jacket if the flight is over water to or from a helideck.
- (3) This section does not apply if:
 - (a) for any aircraft:
 - (i) the aircraft is flown over water for the purpose of climbing after take-off from, or descending to land at, an aerodrome; and
 - (ii) the aircraft is flown in accordance with a navigational procedure that is normal for the climb or descent at the aerodrome; or
 - (b) for any aeroplane — the aeroplane is being flown higher than 2 000 ft above the water.
- (4) For subsections (1) and (2), a person may be taken to be wearing a life jacket if it is secured to the person in a way that allows the person to quickly and easily put it on in an emergency.

26.59 Wearing life jackets – rotorcraft – special provision

- (1) This section applies to a flight of a rotorcraft if:
 - (a) the rotorcraft takes off from, or lands at, an aerodrome in a populous area; and
 - (b) an area of water is the only reasonably available forced-landing area for the *relevant period*.
- (2) During the relevant period, each person on the rotorcraft (other than an infant, if any) must wear a life jacket.
- (3) For paragraph (1) (b), the *relevant period* is:
 - (a) for a take-off — the period after take-off until the rotorcraft reaches the minimum height at or above which the rotorcraft is required to be flown under regulation 91.265; or
 - (b) for a landing — the period after the rotorcraft descends below the minimum height at or above which the rotorcraft is required to be flown under regulation 91.265, until the rotorcraft has landed.

26.60 Life rafts —carriage requirements

- (1) When an aircraft begins a flight to which this section applies, it must carry sufficient life rafts to provide a place on a life raft for each person on the aircraft.
- (2) This section applies to an aircraft flight if during the flight the aircraft is flown over water and is further from land than the following distances:
 - (a) for a jet-driven multi-engine aeroplane with an MTOW of more than 2 722 kg — whichever is the shorter of the following:
 - (i) the distance the aeroplane would fly in 2 hours at its normal cruising speed in still air;
 - (ii) 400 NM;

- (b) for a propellor-driven turbine-engine multi-engine aeroplane with an MTOW of more than 5 700 kg — whichever is the shorter of the following:
 - (i) the distance the aeroplane would fly in 2 hours at its normal cruising speed in still air;
 - (ii) 400 NM;
- (c) for any other aircraft — whichever is the shorter of the following:
 - (i) the distance the aircraft would fly in 30 minutes at its normal cruising speed in still air;
 - (ii) 100 NM.
- (3) For subsection (1), when working out the number of life rafts to be carried on an aircraft:
 - (a) the capacity of a life raft is the rated capacity specified for it by the manufacturer of the life raft; and
 - (b) the number of infants on board the aircraft need not be taken into account.
- (4) Any overload capacity of a life raft is not to be taken into account in determining its capacity for the purposes of paragraph (3) (a).

26.61 Stowage of life rafts

- (1) This section applies to an aircraft that is required to carry a life raft under this Division.
- (2) The life raft must be stowed and secured so that it can be readily deployed if the aircraft has to ditch.
- (3) If a life raft is stowed in a compartment or container, the compartment or container must be conspicuously marked as containing the life raft.

26.62 Overwater survival equipment

- (1) This section applies if an aircraft is required to carry a life raft under section 26.60.
- (2) When the aircraft begins the flight, it must carry the following:
 - (a) survival equipment for sustaining life, as appropriate for the overwater area to be overflown;
 - (b) signalling equipment that can make the distress signals set out in Appendix 1 to ICAO Annex 2, *Rules of the Air* if required.

Division 26.15 Remote areas

26.63 Definitions

In this Division:

Central Australia remote area has the meaning given by section 26.65.

remote area means 1 of the following:

- (a) Central Australia remote area;
- (b) Snowy Mountains remote area;
- (c) Tasmania remote area.

Snowy Mountains remote area has the meaning given by section 26.65.

Tasmania remote area has the meaning given by section 26.65.

Note The actual definitions are located in section 26.65, adjacent to supporting maps.