

POLICE BOAT CODE B

**A Code of Practice for the Construction, Machinery,
Equipment and Operation of Sea-Going Police Rigid
Inflatable Boats Operating up to 60 Miles from a Safe
Haven.**

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1. Title and commencement.

- 1.1 This Code is called “A Code of Practice for the Construction, Machinery, Equipment and Operation of Sea-Going Police Rigid Inflatable Boats and Other Small Vessels Operating up to 60 Miles from a Safe Haven”.
- 1.2 This Code may be identified as ‘Police Boat Code B’.
- 1.3 This Code shall apply together with the Police Boat Common Code from the date of commencement.

2. Application.

- 2.1 This Code applies to police rigid inflatable boats that operate up to 60 miles to sea from a safe haven.
- 2.2 This Code allows police rigid inflatable boats to operate up to 20 miles from a safe haven. However as a result of special operational requirements occasionally police vessels are required to operate outside the hours of daylight and beyond 20 miles to sea from a safe haven.
- 2.3 As a result of special operational requirements, police rigid inflatable boats, and other similar police vessels with a rigid hull, may proceed beyond 20 miles from a safe haven, but no further than 60 miles from a safe haven.
- 2.4 Where a vessel described in paragraph 2.3 proceeds to sea beyond 20 miles from a safe haven it must;
 - .1 be in the close company of a vessel certified under Police Boat Code A, or other appropriately certified vessel with a permanent substantial enclosure for the protection of persons on board, considered suitable by the Police Officer in charge of the Police Marine Unit, which is certified to carry the total number of persons on the vessel and on the vessel certified under this Code; and
 - .2 be a vessel that meets the requirements of Annex 1 to PBC2, and is not a vessel that has been phased in under existing provisions and standards, or allowed to operate on

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a case by case basis under 5.2 of the Police Boat Common Code.

- .3 carry a liferaft prescribed by Annex 1 for the total number of persons on board; and
 - .4 be in regular radio contact, at intervals of no more than 15 minutes, with the vessel described in 2.4.1; and
 - .5 have all persons onboard wearing personal EPIRBs, lifejackets and suitable anti-exposure clothing; and
 - .6 only operate in favourable weather; and
 - .7 have twin engines installed with totally independent systems (except for batteries, see 3.2); and
 - .8 carry sufficient fuel for the voyage, and if necessary, have reserve fuel available on the vessel described in 2.4.1; and
 - .9 carry sufficient food and water for the intended voyage for persons onboard. This may be carried on the vessel described in 2.4.1 if practicable.
- 2.5 Where a vessel certified under this Code is operating outside of the hours of daylight at sea within 20 miles of a safe haven as a result of special operational requirements.
- .1 have twin engines installed with totally independent systems (except for batteries, see 3.2); and
 - .2 have all persons onboard wearing personal EPIRBs, lifejackets and suitable anti-exposure clothing; and
 - .3 only operate in favourable weather; and
 - .4 be in regular radio contact, at intervals of no more than 15 minutes, with either an officer of HM Coastguard in a MRCC or a police representative.

3. Machinery.

- 3.1 Vessels operating under this Code should have two engines.
- 3.2 Where electrical starting facilities are provided, each engine shall have its own independent battery with change over switches to allow either engine to be started by either battery. Charging facilities shall be available for all batteries.
- 3.3 There shall be a separate fuel source provided for each engine. This can be achieved by installing two separate fuel tanks or by division of the main tank internally.

4. Protective clothing.

- 4.1 Operational immersion/dry suits shall be provided for all persons certificated to be carried onboard. They shall be worn;
 - .1 whilst operating at sea more than 1 mile from a safe haven; and
 - .2 at any other time when the officer in charge of the vessel so orders having made a suitable and sufficient risk assessment with particular reference to the area of operation, weather conditions and the availability or otherwise of a liferaft or other out of water support.
- 4.2 Where the wearing of immersion/dry suit is not deemed suitable appropriate protective clothing of a standard which affords protection from the elements and reduces the likelihood of hypothermia shall be worn.
- 4.3 Protective headgear which facilitates communication should be worn by the crew when appropriate. The protective headgear should meet a recognised standard for marine users.

5. Man-overboard/rescue equipment.

- 5.1 Man-overboard/rescue equipment shall be carried on board.
- 5.2 Where the free-board does not allow the ready recovery of a person from the water by members of the crew, boats should be fitted with a means for the retrieval of any person from the water which should be proven by practical testing.

6. General equipment.

- 6.1 Each boat shall be provided with a waterproof torch.
- 6.2 Boats fitted with inflatable sponsons shall carry a means by which the sponsons can be inflated and repaired.