



Safety at Sea Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 23

PART I

SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS

The vessel's equipment

1 Emergency position indicating radio beacon.

- (1) A fishing vessel shall carry a radio beacon which in the event of an emergency will indicate its position by transmitting on a prescribed frequency.
- (2) This section applies to all United Kingdom fishing vessels of 12 metres or more in length and to such other United Kingdom fishing vessels as may be prescribed.

2 Automatic release life rafts.

- (1) The life rafts carried by a fishing vessel shall be secured in such a way that they are automatically released and float free if the vessel sinks.
- (2) This section applies to all United Kingdom fishing vessels of 12 metres or more in length and to such other United Kingdom fishing vessels as may be prescribed.

3 Lifejackets.

- (1) A United Kingdom fishing vessel of less than 12 metres in length shall carry a lifejacket of an appropriate size for each person on board and extra lifejackets as follows—
 - (a) if lifejackets of different sizes are required to be carried, at least one extra lifejacket of each size;
 - (b) otherwise one extra lifejacket if there are 10 or fewer persons and two extra lifejackets if there are 11 or more.

- (2) The lifejackets shall comply with the requirements for the time being of Part I or, as the case may be, Part II of Schedule 11 to the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Rules 1975 (general requirements for lifejackets).

4 Power to prescribe further requirements.

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations—
- (a) prescribe anything required to be prescribed for the purposes of sections 1 and 2 ; and
 - (b) amplify or extend the requirements of sections 1 to 3, in particular, by laying down further technical requirements in relation to the equipment required by those sections.
- (2) References in this Act or elsewhere to the requirements of sections 1 to 3 are to those requirements as amplified or extended under this section.

5 Enforcement.

- (1) In section 2(1) of the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Act 1970 (fishing vessel survey rules) for “and the rules for radio navigational aids” substitute “, the rules for radio navigational aids and sections 1 and 2 of the Safety at Sea Act 1986 (safety requirements for fishing vessels)”.
- (2) In section 3(1) of the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Act 1970 (fishing vessel certificates), omit “or” at the end of paragraph (b) and after paragraph (c) insert—
- “, or
- (d) sections 1 and 2 of the Safety at Sea Act 1986 (safety requirements for fishing vessels)”.
- (3) The references to “the Merchant Shipping Acts” in section 3(1) of the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Act 1970 and in section 76(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970 (powers of inspection) include this Act.
- (4) In Schedule 1 to the Merchant Shipping Act 1984 (relevant statutory provisions for purposes of improvement and prohibition notices), at the appropriate place add—

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The Safety at Sea Act 1986. Sections 1 to 3.”

6 Offences.

- (1) No fishing vessel to which any of the requirements sections 1 to 3 applies shall go to sea unless the requirement is complied with.
- (2) If a fishing vessel goes to sea in contravention of this section the owner and skipper of the vessel are each liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (3) In proceedings for an offence under this section it is a defence for the accused to show that he used all due diligence and took all reasonable precautions to avoid the commission of an offence under this section.