



## Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Title:	Gear and Equipment- IRB Specification Update
Document ID:	34/16-17
Audience:	State/Territory Centres Branch Centres Clubs, Members
From:	SLSA Coastal Safety
Date:	19 December 2016
Summary:	This circular provides information on the IRB specification

### Background

In 2009, SLSA undertook a review of IRB operations following an increase in member injuries. One recommendation from this review was to produce one soft hull IRB specification that would ultimately increase the consistency of manufacturers that produce hulls for the SLS movement. Following this an IRB working group was formed made up of State lifesaving and sport experts, who were tasked with producing the first version of the specification.

Three manufacturers presented a prototype boat; that was trialed in three States, by over 100 members in varying conditions. From here, there were adjustments made to the specification based on member and State feedback, with the specification presented to the National Committees for approval.

### Decisions

At the 2016 November National Lifesaving meeting, the LMC and LMAC unanimously approved the IRB specification, a copy of which can be found on the Members Portal/Library/Lifesaving/Equipment/SLSA.

### Implementation Detail

Manufacturers will have six (6) months to adjust to the incoming specification. After this period clubs will only be able to purchase the new variety of hulls. Current suppliers to SLSA include Achilles Inflatable Boats, Thundercat Inflatables and Zodiac Milpro. Other manufacturers are able to apply and be approved to build craft to the new specification now and in the future.

Clubs using an old class of IRB will be able to use these boats for lifesaving purposes for the duration of their life. It is not expected that clubs would need to replace these outside their normal asset replacement periods.

The Surf Sport committee have provided clubs with a clear implementation period for racing. From 1 Jan 2023, all clubs will need to use boats that meet the new specification. It was considered that there will need to be a significant period of transition, to ensure all clubs are given a fair and reasonable opportunity to do so.

SLSA would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have been involved in the development of this specification, in particular the LMC, LMAC and IRB Working Group.

*For Further Information Contact:*

SLSA: P: (02) 9215 8000