



Surf Life Saving Australia - Circular

Document ID:	56/16-17 IRB - non-conforming additions and conforming accessory equipment
Audience:	Lifesaving services
From:	Coastal Safety
Date:	28 April 2017
Summary:	Update of non-conforming additions to existing IRB floorboards and conforming accessory equipment.

Summary

1. Existing IRB floorboards must not be retro-fitted with the foot strap design outlined in Technical Specification Inflatable Rescue Boat (SLSA IRB-2015.B) Version 1.5
2. The foot block can be retro-fitted to existing IRBs under direction of State Centres. Manufacturers of IRBs should be consulted for the appropriate fixing method and installation of the foot block to existing IRB hulls.

Background

SLSA released the endorsed version of Technical Specification - Inflatable Rescue Boat (SLSA IRB-2015.B) Version 1.5 in December 2016.

State Centres requested SLSA to confirm if the addition of two components from technical specification SLSA IRB-2015.B could be added to existing IRB hulls. The two components were:

1. Fitting of dual foot straps for each the driver and the crew, and;
2. Fitting the EVA foam Crew foot support block position.

Dual Foot Straps

Existing IRB floorboards must not be retro-fitted with the foot strap design outlined in Technical Specification Inflatable Rescue Boat (SLSA IRB-2015.B) Version 1.5 for the following reasons:

- Existing IRB floorboards will not have the required reinforcement in the appropriate area of the floorboard. This increases the likelihood of failure of either the foot strap or floorboard.
- There is risk that improper installation may weaken the floor board and increase the risk of damage and/or failure of the floorboard.

Floorboards built under the Technical Specification SLSA IRB-2015.B will be reinforced to strengthen the area around the new foot straps.

Under the new technical specification, the dual foot straps are positioned to give IRB drivers and crew a choice of foot placement, that is more appropriate to their individual height and leg length.

Crew Foot Support Block

The EVA foam foot support block is designed to reduce the chance of the Crew's foot becoming wedged between the floorboard and the port side buoyancy tube while undertaking the locked-in position.

Clubs should contact the manufacturer of the hull to discuss the appropriate installation methods of the foot block. The attachment of the foot block should be undertaken by an SLS endorsed manufacturer.

The foot block is triangular, with one face moulded to fit the arc of buoyancy tube. Dimensions for the foot block can be found in Part B: Accessory equipment 3.6 Crewperson Foot Support Block of Technical Specification SLSA IRB-2015.B

If a club needs additional support through this process, contact SLSA or your state centre.



SLSA will continue to work with members and IRB manufacturers to ensure that the SLS IRB technical specification meets the operational requirements for Surf Life Saving.

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Related Documents:

- Corresponding standard: ISO 6185-3 2014 Inflatable Boats – Part 3: Boats with a hull length less than 8m with a motor rating of 15kW and greater.
- SLSA Circular: Gear and Equipment- IRB Specification Update (Document ID: 34/16-17)