



## Safety Bulletin 07 of 2018

### Fishing Vessel Safety – Wear your lifejacket and Personal Locator Beacon

Following a number of fatalities within the fishing industry in the United Kingdom, the MAIB have made a number of recommendations on safety equipment to be carried in fishing vessels.

Consequently, the following changes to the Approved Code of Practice will come into force in the UK on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 and include:

- **Life-raft** to be carried on all fishing vessels over 7m
- **Radar reflectors** to be fitted to all fishing vessels
- **Bilge alarms** to be fitted to all fishing vessels over 7m
- **EPIRBs** (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons) with built-in GPS to be fitted to all fishing vessels over 10m
- **EPIRBs, or Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)** for all crew, required on all fishing vessels under 10m
- **Carbon Monoxide monitors** to be fitted to any enclosed spaces containing cooking, or heating facilities or with exhaust penetrations on all fishing vessels.
- Strong recommendation for **crew to wear life jackets** at all times when on deck. (Consulting with industry whether to make wearing them compulsory, as is currently the position in the Irish Republic).
- **Simplified stability guidance** for vessels under 12m.

**Jersey will be looking closely at the implication of the above changes to safety regulations with a view to incorporating some, if not all, into its own safety regulations as soon as possible after their introduction in the UK.**

**In the past five months, two Jersey fishing vessels have been lost, thankfully with no loss of life.**

In one case, the incident occurred so quickly that the crew was unable to retrieve the lifejacket and hand held VHF Radio from their stowage before the vessel sank.

**It is strongly recommended that persons working on deck wear life jackets at all times.**

**It is also recommended that if operating singlehanded they wear a PLB or a waterproof VHF radio.** (A waterproofed mobile telephone, whilst potentially useful, should **NOT** be considered an alternative to a PLB or VHF).

**Lifejackets of a type suitable for wearing whilst working on fishing vessels are available.** (An example of this is the Mullion Compact 150N CE PFD, which is in widespread use in the United Kingdom).