

Emergency equipment

General

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Advisory Circulars (ACs) contain information about standards, practices, and procedures that the Director has found to be an **acceptable means of compliance** with the associated rule.

Consideration will be given to other methods of compliance that are presented to the Director. When new standards, practices, or procedures are found to be acceptable they will be added to the appropriate AC.

Purpose

This AC describes an acceptable means of compliance with Civil Aviation Rule Part 43 relating to the maintenance of emergency equipment.

Related Rules

AC43-6 relates to the emergency equipment maintenance requirements under Civil Aviation Rule part 43 – *General Maintenance Rules*.

Change Notice

Revision 2 makes changes to align with Part 91, Subpart G and international standards. It also re-orders some sections for clarity.

~~Revision 1 is a general update and re-ordering of this AC, to align with current AC format. We have also taken the opportunity to add a Version History.~~

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Version History

The history of revisions is detailed in the table below:

Revision No.	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
AC43-6, Rev 0	25 Dec 1997	Initial issue
AC43-6, Rev 1	5 April 2025	General update, and re-ordering to align with current AC format. Added a Version History
AC43-6, Rev 2	XX XXXX 2025	Makes changes to align with Part 91, Subpart G and international standards. Reorders some sections for clarity.

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1. General

This AC, which is to be read in conjunction with Part 43, prescribes maintenance requirements for:

- safety equipment
- flotation equipment, and
- portable fire extinguishers.

Except as otherwise specified in an approved maintenance programme or operator's maintenance manual, safety equipment should be maintained in accordance with appropriate aircraft manufacturer's instructions or, in the absence of these, in accordance with the equipment manufacturer's instructions.

All emergency equipment should be examined for general condition, including examination for corrosion and other deterioration.

Maintenance performed on safety equipment should be recorded in the logbook of the aircraft in which the equipment is installed.

For equipment which is not regularly carried on the same aircraft:

- maintenance can be recorded in a separate maintenance record, or
- the date of the last test or check required by the maintenance programme should be indelibly marked:
 - on each item of equipment
 - on a CAA Form Two attached to the equipment, or
 - for a fire extinguisher, on the attached ~~metal~~ tag.

2. First Aid Kits

First aid kits must be fitted in all air transport aircraft and any aircraft with greater than 10 passenger seats. **Part 91 Subpart G requires** the contents **to** ~~should~~ be checked against the required scale of items:

- every 12 months **and**
- when reported as used by the crew ~~or~~
- ~~when a component item has reached its expiry date.~~

When assembling the content of the first aid kit, the operator needs to take into account the:

- operating environment
- routes to be flown
- types of operation carried out
- number of passengers, and
- likely medical requirements.

The contents of the first aid kit, once agreed by the operator of the aircraft, should be included as a list in the kit.

The inspection of the kit should confirm:

- the contents against the operator's requirements
- the contents against each particular item's requirements such as expiry dates
- the security of the kit in the aircraft, and
- the location and placarding of the kit and the aircraft to minimise:
 - damage to the kit as a result of an accident, or
 - injury to the aircraft occupants if the kit becomes detached, or
 - contamination during normal operations.

3. Flotation Equipment

Life preservers are required on all flights that cannot maintain 1000 feet altitude more than gliding distance from shore. To be effective when used, these items should be regularly serviced.

Unless otherwise detailed in the manufacturer's procedures, all flotation equipment should be tested at intervals not exceeding 12 months. Tests should require the inflation of each chamber and a check for the rate of leakage from that chamber.

Inflation tests

Inflation tests should be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at intervals not exceeding 12 months. Tests should require the inflation of each chamber and a check for the rate of leakage from that chamber.

Test pressure

When an equipment manufacturer does not specify a test pressure, inflatable safety equipment should be tested for leaks using an inflation pressure of 2PSI. at 14 kPa FAA AC43.13-1B details general inspection procedures for survival equipment, including permissible leak rates for inflatables.

Chambers

Flotation equipment should be checked for general condition of the material and seams.

~~Flotation cushions~~

~~Flotation cushions should be tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at intervals not exceeding six months.~~

~~To find out more about applicable standards, check the MaritimeNZ website at:~~

~~<https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/content/commercial/safety/safety-equipment/commercial-lifejackets.asp>~~

~~Portable fire extinguishers~~

~~Unless otherwise approved, each portable fire extinguisher should be weighed at intervals not exceeding 12 months. The weight should not be less than that specified by the manufacturer for a fully charged extinguisher.~~

Fitted equipment items

All items fitted to the equipment including:

- strobes, for operation and battery life
- whistles, for operation
- lifting handles, for security and condition of stitching
- reflecting tape, for security and clarity
- inflation valves, for operation, and
- CO2 cylinders, for weight and valve operation

should be regularly assessed for their serviceability.

4. Packaging

Any equipment should be checked to ensure that it provides the equipment adequate protection to prevent in-service damage.

5. Flotation cushions

Flotation cushions should be tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions at intervals not exceeding six months.

To find out more about applicable standards, check the MaritimeNZ website at:

<https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/content/commercial/safety/safety-equipment/commercial-lifejackets.asp>

6. Portable fire extinguishers

Unless otherwise approved, each portable fire extinguisher should be weighed at intervals not exceeding 12 months. The weight should not be less than that specified by the manufacturer for a fully charged extinguisher.