

Maritime Search and Rescue Endorsement Scheme

Vessel types

March 2025

Amendments

Date	Section/subject	Change by	Reviewed by

SAR vessel or emergency response vessel with prescribed SAR responsibilities in SAR related tasks hours include SAR training hours at sea, SAR exercises at sea, and SAR service taskings. For this scheme, sea service hours and relevant endorsement, SAR vessels are broken down in the following three categories with associated guidance to establish what type of SAR vessel is applicable to which Endorsement.

SAR Asset Type	Coastal SAR Unit	Offshore SAR Unit	Ocean SAR Unit
Guidance on Vessel Type and Capability	Open type design Limited to no more than 20nm from a safe haven 12m or less in length Weather restriction on vessel operation Fitted with outboard engines	Limited to no more than 150nm from a safe haven Between 12.1m and 24m in length No formal weather restrictions Fitted with inboard engines Self-righting post capsize	No limitation on distance offshore Sleeping accommodation on board GMDSS area A3 compliant Over 24m in length Over 200gt No formal weather restriction

To be granted an endorsement for SAR unit, the candidate must accrue a minimum of 50 hours on each asset type within their 250-hour total, as well as complete each of the specialist units within the TRB.

For instance, an individual who accumulates 150 hours on a Coastal SAR Unit and 100 hours on an Offshore SAR Unit, while also completing the required specialist tasks within the TRB, will receive both endorsements upon successfully completing the scheme. Conversely, an individual with 220 hours on a Coastal SAR Unit and only 30 hours on an Offshore SAR Unit will be granted only the Coastal SAR Unit endorsement. However, upon revalidation and completion of the TRB tasks, the Offshore SAR Unit endorsement can be added once the 50-hour requirement is met. Revalidation can be requested at any time.