

The minimum freeboard of boats of this type shall be fixed in relation to their length; and it shall be measured vertically to the top of the solid hull at the side amidships, from the water-level, when the boat is loaded.

The freeboard in fresh water shall not be less than the following amounts:—

Length of Lifeboat		Minimum Freeboard	
Metres	Equivalent in Feet to—	Millimetres	Equivalent in Inches to—
7.90	26	200	8
8.50	28	225	9
9.15	30	250	10

The freeboard of boats of intermediate length is to be found by interpolation.

The collapsible sides must be watertight.

(b) *Decked Boats with either Fixed or Collapsible Watertight Bulwarks*

(i) *Decked Boats having a Well Deck.*—The area of the well deck of a boat of this type shall be at least 30 per cent of the total deck area. The height of the well deck above the water-line at all points shall be at least equal to one-half per cent of the length of the boat, this height being increased to one-and-a-half per cent of the length of the boat at the ends of the well.

The freeboard of a boat of this type shall be such as to provide for a reserve buoyancy of at least 35 per cent.

(ii) *Decked Boats having a Flush Deck.*—The minimum freeboard of boats of this type is independent of their lengths and depends only upon their depths. The depth of the boat is to be measured vertically from the underside of the garboard strake to the top of the deck at the side amidships and the freeboard is to be measured from the top of the deck at the side amidships to the water-level when the boat is loaded.

The freeboard in fresh water shall not be less than the following amounts, which are applicable without correction to boats having a mean sheer equal to three per cent of their length:—

Depth of Lifeboat		Minimum Freeboard	
Millimetres	Equivalent in Inches to—	Millimetres	Equivalent in Inches to—
310	12	70	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
460	18	95	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
610	24	130	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
760	30	165	6 $\frac{1}{2}$

For intermediate depths the freeboard is obtained by interpolation.

If the sheer is less than the standard sheer defined above, the minimum freeboard is obtained by adding to the figures in the table one-seventh of the difference between the standard sheer and the actual mean sheer measured at the stem and stern post; no deduction is to be made from the freeboard on account of the sheer being greater than the standard sheer or on account of the camber of the deck.

(iii) All decked lifeboats shall be fitted with efficient means for clearing the deck of water.