



SURF LIFE SAVING[®]
NEW ZEALAND



RWC

Refresher Manual

Updated: September 2024

In it for life



Introduction

Refreshers are a tool for clubs to use in identifying the capabilities of members. SLSNZ requires completion of refreshers to ensure that members are able to deal with situations that occur in Surf Lifesaving and use Surf Lifesaving equipment in a safe and appropriate way.

This manual describes the requirements of the Rescue Water Craft (RWC) Refresher.

The RWC Operator will have 24 month expiry.

Remember:

- Refreshers will be managed online.
- Refreshers will be available ALL year.
- RWC Refreshers have a 24-month cycle. This means that if a member completes their refresher on 2 September 2024, it will expire on 2 September 2026.
- Refer to the Setting up Refreshers Manual for further information on the refresher process.





Powercraft Refreshers

RWC Operator

The RWC Refresher is designed for any “currently refreshed SLA” member who holds their RWC Operator Award.

The RWC Operator Refreshers consist of the following components:

- Online Theory Module – which includes an element of refreshing and a theory quiz.
- Practical Task Sign off as per the following checklists.

Assessment Requirements – RWC

Equipment Required

- All operators and crewpersons must each wear a compliant helmet and personal flotation device (PFD) that meets the NSOP/CSOP requirements when operating an RWC at all times.

Conduct of the Section

- The practical aspects shall be performed in a minimum of one (1) metre of surf. The surf size must be measured from the front of the wave, from the trough of the wave, to the top. For the purpose of consistency, this means that while surf size may vary throughout the duration of the session, only skills demonstrated in the minimum wave size will be considered valid.
- The surf size measurement must apply in the areas in which the rescue water craft is being driven/crewed for the exam assessment.
- Candidates should be kept in small manageable groups. There should be a maximum of SIX candidates to every one Assessor for all water based activities.
- The maximum number of candidates (driver / operator/ crewperson combined) is twelve per refresher. Group sizes bigger than this increase the complexity of required safety measures, and may impact the validity of assessments.
- Below are the SLSNZ guidelines for Assessor-candidate-powered craft ratios during exams. This includes all aspects of the exam except for the theory component.

Number of driver / crewperson candidates	Minimum number of Assessors	Number of powered crafts being used by candidate's	Additional fully crewed safety powered craft
1-6	1	1	1
7-12	2	2	1



Water Safety

- There must be a minimum of one designated safety powered craft (with a qualified and currently refreshed crew) on standby at all times during the examination.
- The examination is not to continue if the water safety ratio cannot be maintained.
- The Assessor in charge is to liaise with the Patrol Captain (if applicable) at the beach the examination is being held and jointly fill in the 'Safety Checklist' (as per the RWC examiner's manual).
- It is the responsibility of the Assessor in Charge to ensure there are adequate water safety personnel during the water examination sections. *If refreshers are conducted during patrol hours, the Patrol Captain will retain oversight for all operations.*
- The duty Patrol Captain (if applicable) and the Examiner in Charge are collectively responsible for making a decision to postpone/terminate the examination if the surf conditions become dangerous or other unforeseen conditions arise. Both the duty Patrol Captain and the Examiner in Charge must agree that conditions are acceptable before commencing any water-based activities.



Assessment Checklists – RWC

The Surf Lifeguard undertaking this RWC Refresher must be currently refreshed as a 'Surf Lifeguard' before commencing the RWC refresher.

- Refreshed Surf Lifeguard

RWC Refresher Check List

RWC Set Up

It is intended that this section of the RWC Operator Refresher is to be conducted in a group situation. It is expected that each person being assessed will participate and perform at least one task in the group. Any learners that do not participate and perform at least one task in the group will not achieve this section of the refresher practical.

- Read previous days/weekends logbook.
- External RWC components checked (hull, ride plate, water inlet grate, bungs, straps).
- Internal RWC components checked.
- All operational equipment is checked (rescue tube, helmets, goggles, flares, PFD, radio, rescue sled).
- Fuel levels checked and re-filled if necessary.
- Correct use of PPE and lanyard checked for operation.
- Engine start/stop check completed.



Operating skills

Launching

- Check RWC & equipment prior to launch.
- Operator rocks RWC from side to side in a bid to remove any sand that has settled in the jet unit.
- Operator checks adequate depth of water (min 60cm), confirms all equipment is present prior to starting.
- Ensure clearance behind the RWC prior to starting.

Manoeuvres

- Remain stationary in the surf.
- Parallel run-in surf.
- Figure 8 manoeuvres.

Single person rescue

All RWC Operators will complete each component as an individual in this section. There is no crew person during this refresher examination.

This component will be performed within the surf zone. The single person rescue must be one of two techniques:

1. Conscious patient pick-up, presenting the rescue sled.
2. Conscious patient pick-up, wrist to wrist assisted rescue.

Patient pick up

- Good communication with patient.
- Appropriate speed and course to area of patient in line with MNZ legislation.
- Slows when nearing the patient and assesses the patient and surf conditions, checks for hazards.
- Approaches the patient from a 7 o'clock angle.
- Appropriate patient pick up technique is applied.
- Good timing during pickup (picked up after the wave hits the patient).



Care for the patient

- Ensure the patient is on the rescue sled and secure.
- Ensures safe return to the beach for the patient, no unnecessary risks taken and observing all legislative requirements.

Patient lift and carry

- Patient is lifted from the rescue sled.
- Patient is carried clear of the high water mark.
- Appropriate technique and care is used while handling.



Close down RWC

It is intended that this section of the RWC Operator Refresher is to be conducted in a group situation. It is expected that each person being assessed will participate and perform at least one task in the group. Any learners that do not participate and perform at least one task in the group will not achieve this section of the refresher practical.

- Inspect and remove bungs:
 - Wash down – Spray RWC, rescue sled and trailer with fresh water, lightly spray engine bay.
 - Hose out intake and jet nozzle.
- Flush engine with fresh water.
 - Sequence must be engine on, water on, water off, engine off.
- Inspect condition of hull, ride plate and water inlet grate for damages.
- Check fuel and refill if necessary.
- Store RWC, equipment and fill out RWC log book.