

# Redefining the



# Rigid Inflatable

## BRIG EAGLE 6.45 H

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*The Eagle 645 H is a remarkable craft. While it is equipped with slinging hooks for tender use, in its own right, it is a smart, high performance go-anywhere sports boat.*



**RECENTLY WE TESTED** the impressive Brig Eagle 645 H inflatable and in the course of completing my review, despite the fact that Brig's Australia-wide distributor, Sirocco Marine's principal Neil Webster had given me a full run-down on the company history, I thought I would check out their website.

I am glad I did because while the website is succinct, it carries one impressive comment - 'Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away..!' That in a sentence, sums up the quality of the Brig inflatable. RHIBS (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) or RIBS as they are commonly known, have long since overtaken aluminium dinghies as the tender of choice for most modern cruisers. Their superior buoyancy, significant weight saving and stability have seen a surge in their market share in recent years.

Brig is a Ukrainian based company with its origins in the Russian aeronautical and space agency programs. When the USSR broke up, the Ukrainian company which had previously supplied all hypalon landing tubes for the Russian space vehicles, turned its impressively skilled workforce to manufacturing RHIBS and with such success

that since 1991, the company has achieved enormous worldwide growth. Their products are now sold in more than 45 countries throughout the world and in many countries, they are the market leaders in RHIB products.

The Brig RHIBS are virtually unsinkable due to their tremendous buoyancy and are less prone to damaging other vessels when coming alongside. The distinction between a RHIB and many other inflatable brands is that Brigs are constructed of Hypalon - a man-made fabric with largely superior qualities to Polymer or as it is commonly known, PVC.

Hypalon is considerably more expensive than PVC but its superior resistance to ultra violet (UV) and chemical damage makes its longevity almost assured.

Sirocco Marine distribute a range of Brig inflatables in this country including the purpose-built Eagle 340 H and 380 H. These two models have been designed specifically by Brig to meet the requirements of modern luxury cruisers such as Riviera and Maritimo. The largest of the Brig range is the sporty Eagle 645 H - a 6.5 metre boat built with a fibreglass hull and equipped with 58

centimetre Hypalon tubes for superb buoyancy, wave cushioning and stability.

The Eagle 645 H is a remarkable craft. While it is equipped with slinging hooks for tender use, in its own right, it is a smart, high performance go-anywhere sports boat. Our test boat was powered by a 200 horsepower Mercury Verado four cylinder outboard equipped with SmartCraft electronic controls and gauges. As such, the 645 H has lightning acceleration and can run at high speeds in uncomfortable sea conditions due to the wave cushioning of its giant Hypalon tubes.

The 645 H has tremendous handling characteristics - she turns and banks like a sports car - is incredibly soft landing and is without doubt, class leading in terms of spray deflection.

The centre console design allows for up to 13 people to be carried along her tubes and the forward and aft seating. The console is protected by a perspex windshield held in place by a stainless steel brace. The helm seat is big enough for two adults and also features a foot brace. Dash gauges are analogue, steering is hydraulic and there are other useful accessories including a glove





box and 12 volt power outlet. The 645 H is also equipped with a fresh water shower, automatic bilge pumps with manual override, stainless steel swim ladder and even a bowsprit.

A further feature of the Brig 645 H is that the RHIB is constructed with five air chambers and fibreglass end cones. Her sporty lines come from the aft facing targa arch which accommodates navigation lights, horn and an anchor light as well as acting as a brace for the fold-away bimini. For added safety, there are a number of drink holders located near the fore and aft seating.

The transom is reinforced fibreglass with towing hooks and a removable stainless steel ski pole. There is a full beam transom seat, with double locking stainless steel hinges, which reveals considerable storage under. A further piece of innovative thinking has seen the Brig design engineers incorporate a fold-out table in the back of the adjustable helm bolsters.

There is further seating forward of the centre console and a spacious forward lounge as well as a chain locker. There are storage pockets under all forward seating and well placed grab handles allow passengers to sit comfortably and safely along the length of

the tubes. For added safety, the Brig is self draining and has a CE Category B safety rating. Powered by the Mercury 200hp Verado, the Brig 645 H has a top speed of 49 knots. The RHIBs fine entry hull, full length strakes and reverse chines provide excellent entry and at 980kg, the 645 H is by no means a light weight. The 645 H carries 225 litres of fuel in a centrally located tank and a further 75 litres of fresh water.

With strong European styling, excellent safety features, stability, sea worthiness and versatility, the Brig range of inflatables have virtually redefined RHIB standards. Their obsession with quality and safety has seen this range of rigid hull inflatables reach market leading status after four short years in the Australian market.



<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>	<b>LOA</b>	21ft 1" (6.48 metres)
	<b>Beam</b>	8ft 2" (2.5 metres)
	<b>Draft</b>	12" (.3 metre)
	<b>Displacement</b>	520kg excluding engine
	<b> Tubes</b>	Hypalon
	<b>Hull</b>	Rigid fibreglass
	<b>Fuel capacity</b>	200 litres
	<b>Fresh water</b>	75 litres
	<b>Load capacity</b>	1600kg
	<b>No of persons</b>	13
	<b>Engine</b>	Single 4 stroke Mercury Verado 200hp petrol outboard
	<b>Cruising speed</b>	20 - 25 knots
<b>Top Speed</b>	45 knots	
<b>Warranty</b>	Manufacturer's warranty	
<b>Price as tested</b>	\$75,000 including trailer	
<b>Base price excluding engine \$49,000</b>		
Test boat supplied by Sirocco Marine Pty Ltd, Sydney.		
02 9667 4422   <a href="http://www.siroccomarine.com.au">www.siroccomarine.com.au</a>		

