

Guidelines For Leisure Boat/Small Vessel Operators

-Water Based Adventure Tourism Activities

For Registration with Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority

1. Introduction

Small vessels and boats engage in leisure tourist activities such as sea excursion, sport fishing, whale and dolphin watching will come under this category.

2. BASIC OPERATING PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES

Leisure boats and small vessels engage in tourism related activities with minimum operating requirements for each type of boat or vessel, subject to the rules and regulations of Director General, Merchant Shipping (DGMS) could be considered under this category.

The boats and vessels under the above purview will be as follows;

- i. Log rafts (Theppams)
- ii. Dugout canoes (orus or vallams)
- iii. Outrigger canoes (Kollae oru) or Twin-hulled catamarans
- iv. Canoes (Fiberglass, Plastic, Wooden or canvas/rubber inflatable)
- v. Kayaks, Sit-on-tops (Fiberglass/Plastic)
- vi. Any kind of sailing vessels (Fiberglass, wooden, aluminium, rubber canoes)
- vii. Inflatable rubber and canvas non-mechanized rafts
- viii. Mechanized rubber canoes dinghies with outboard engines
- ix. Mechanized boats with inboard or inboard-outdrive engines.
- x. House-Boats with living facilities (Bedrooms, Kitchen, Toilet etc.)

For more details refer to Merchant Shipping Act No. 52 of 1971.

3. MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

The following equipment should be approved under rules and regulations of Director General of Merchant Shipping (DGMS)

- i. Vessels/Boats
- ii. Communication Equipment
- iii. Life Rafts, Life Jackets and Life Buoys
- iv. Fire Fighting Equipment

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The following should be available on board.

- i. Anchor and Anchor rope with adequate length
- ii. Binoculars
- iii. A mobile phone in addition to the other communication equipment.
- iv. Fully stocked First Aid Box

4. SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- a) Personal Safety Instructions, emergency handling, safe evacuation etc. should be briefed before sailing.
- b) Details of all passengers and crew with emergency contact nos. must be available.
- c) The carrying capacity of the vessel should be in accordance with the specifications of the seaworthiness certificate, but subject to prevailing or forecasted sea and weather condition.
- d) An adequate amount of drinking water should be available on board.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a) For facilities on land refer to the guidelines provided by the Fishery Harbors Corporation.
- b) For facilities on board refer to Merchant Shipping Act No. 52 of 1971

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENT/APPROVALS

- a) Marine Survey Report from the relevant authority.
- b) Valid insurance cover, covering comprehensive public liability.
- c) The boat operator should have a valid Coxswain Certificate issued by Sri Lanka Ports Authority or any other Government approved authority to drive the boat.
- d) A Life Saving Swimming and First Aid Certificate of the crew members.