



South African Sailing Bulletin # 2/ 2004

In this Bulletin:

1. Application of Small Vessel Regulations to Sailing Dinghies
2. Recommended list of Safety Equipment
3. Dinghy Certificate of Competence not required

1. APPLICATION OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS TO SAILING DINGHIES

Following publication of SAMSA Marine Circular No 3 of 2004, SAS is now able to clarify certain questions regarding dinghy safety regulations.

This is an update of Bulletin 11 of 2003.

The Merchant Shipping Act (1951) Small Vessel Safety Regulations 2002 does not apply to vessels using INLAND WATERS. It is restricted to vessels operating in coastal waters and tidal estuaries. SAS advises that regulations for Inland Waters are being negotiated and members will be notified of the progress of negotiations and the outcome in due course.

With regard to sailing dinghies operating from Coastal Clubs or tidal estuaries and for non-club vessels operating independently the regulations require the following:

- a) An annual safety inspection to be carried out on all vessels of 3 metres and more in overall length (A list of safety equipment to be carried at all times when operating the vessel, **OTHER THAN IN CONTROLLED EVENTS** is included below)
- b) A certificate of competence for all skippers for vessels of over 6 metres in overall length.

SAS APPLICATION OF THE REGULATIONS

SAS is responsible for the implementation of the Regulations as applied to sailing pleasure vessels and as such is responsible to SAMSA for safety; SAS has some latitude in applying the regulations.

Application to Clubs

There are some clubs that **operate in waters defined as tidal estuaries but do not have "reasonable" access to the sea**. SAS is empowered to give exemption from the regulations to those clubs which will be regulated in future as inland waters. The clubs listed below should apply for such exemption but any other club that believes it should be exempt under this guideline should also apply for exemption.

Imperial Yacht Club
Hermanus Yacht Club
Redhouse Yacht Club

2. SAFETY EQUIPMENT

SAS has agreed, with SAMSA on a recommended list of safety equipment to be carried by dinghies (please see below). The list is clearly in excess for certain classes of dinghies. The list must however be seen in the context of **a single dinghy or multihull vessel operating off a coastal site or from a Sailing Club out of normal club operating hours when club rescue facilities are not available**.

SAS requests that Clubs and Class Associations review this list with a view to determining minimum safety equipment required either for the class of dinghy as a whole and/or as a policy for the Club's local waters and for their particular classes. On application, SAS will review the lists of safety equipment submitted and if to an acceptable standard, will exempt the class of dinghy and/or club from the dinghy safety equipment requirement of the regulations. SAS is not able to abdicate its overall responsibility for safety but following exemption the Clubs and Classes are to accept responsibility for ensuring compliance.

- * 1 x paddle
- * 1 x bailer
- * 1 x litre of water per crew member
- * 1 x anchor and chain (1 metre per metre length of boat)
- * 1 x 50 metre line (towing or anchor line)
- * 1 x life jacket per crew member, or wetsuit plus buoyancy aid per crew member
- * Righting lines on multihulls
- * 1 x smoke float
- * 2 x red flares
- * 1 x pack of red pencil flares could replace above two items

SAS also advises that all boats operating on the coast and outside of controlled events are required to sign out at their clubs or ensure that someone (family or local police) is advised before departure and on return.

3. CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE

SAS does not require any certificates of competence for dinghies at this stage so those classes exceeding 6 metres and normally classified as dinghies are exempt. This would include the Flying Dutchman, Proton, Star and Flying Fifteen.

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