

**GUIDANCE NOTE NO: 14/94**

**REVISION NO: 2**

# Hire and Drive Vessels Inspection Requirements for Jet Skis

## 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 This guidance note should be read in conjunction with the Northern Territory Marine (Hire and Drive Vessel) Regulations.
- 1.2 Jet skis will **not** be permitted outside sheltered harbour waters or inland waters. Operation outside of daylight hours is **not** permitted.
- 1.3 The area of operation is to be approved by the Marine Safety Branch and specified in the Hire and Drive permit issued for each vessel.  
A 10kph speed limit applies as follows:
  - All Waters – within 50 metres of a swimmer/bather, other vessels (including Jet Skis, etc.), jetties, ramps and fixed or floating structures.
  - Within 100 metres of divers or a divers flag.
  - Inland waters – as determined by the Marine Safety Branch
  - Sheltered waters – within 250 metres of the waters edge

NB: Sheltered waters include the Port of Darwin.
- 1.4 The hirer shall be in visual contact with the jet skis in operation, ie. supervised continuously from beaches, land etc and not from homes/shops where visual contact (supervision) is not possible.

## 2. TECHNICAL

- 2.1 Jet skis with an engine capacity larger than 800cc will **not** be permitted.
- 2.2 Full manufacturer details for each type of jet ski to be provided in the form of the service manual and owners manual.
- 2.3 Reversing type jet skis must have the reversing arrangement disconnected.
- 2.4 No modifications are permitted unless approved by the Marine Safety Branch.
- 2.5 A PFD1 (to AS1512) or a buoyancy vest approved for use on jet skis **must** be worn at all times by the driver and any passengers whilst a jet ski is in use.
- 2.6 The throttle must return to the idle position when released and;

- 2.7 An Ignition cut out is required to be fitted in the form of a wrist lanyard which must be fastened to either the operator's wrist or buoyancy vest. If disconnected, or the controls are unattended, (eg if operator falls off) it should cause the jet skis' engine to stop or turn slowly in a tight circle.
- 2.8 A jet ski **must** have a suitable housing around the propulsion unit to prevent injuries.
- 2.9 Hand holds are required, suitable for clinging to when the jet ski is in any position of flotation.
- 2.10 There must be sufficient buoyancy to ensure that the jet ski is unsinkable.
- 2.11 Each jet ski should be of a design which permits easy reboarding.

### 3. INSPECTION

Surveyors/inspectors are required to complete the following during an inspection of a jet ski:-

- 3.1 Check overall condition.
- 3.2 Check that no modifications have been made.
- 3.3 Check that controls and safety devices are in order.
- 3.4 Verify that buoyancy vests are provided and condition is satisfactory.
- 3.5 Ensure that the throttle returns to idle position when released.
- 3.6 Check that the ignition cut-out switch (if fitted) is working.
- 3.7 Inspect fuel tank, gauge and fuel lines.
- 3.8 Check that the battery is secured and in good condition.
- 3.9 A sea trial is required for any new or repaired jet skis.

Items not specified in this guidance note shall comply with the requirements as specified by the surveyor.

Signed by: Sri Srinivas  
Date Issued: 5 December 2001

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#### For further information contact Marine Safety Branch:

2nd Floor, Energy House, 18-20 Cavenagh, Darwin NT 0800, GPO Box 2520, Darwin NT 0801

Telephone: 08 8924 7100, Facsimile: 08 8924 7009

Email: [marinesafety@nt.gov.au](mailto:marinesafety@nt.gov.au)

<http://www.nt.gov.au/dpi/>

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