

GUIDANCE NOTE NO: 30/97

REVISION NO: 1

Airboats

1. Airboats carrying passengers will not be allowed outside inland waters – Class E (smooth waters); and will be specifically restricted to a particular area. Area of operation to be submitted for approval.
2. Only daylight operations will be allowed.
3. Hull strength to be to USL Code/AS4132. For Class 1E and 2E vessels, Subdivision requirements to USL Code.
4. Maximum carrying capacity will be decided for:
 - (a) Class 2E vessels less than 7 metres by estimation and confirmed by carrying out heel test to AS1799.1 Section 5.2.2.(b).
 - (b) Class 2E vessels greater than 7 metres and for all Class 1E vessels inclining and full stability assessment to Section 8 will be required to the appropriate criteria.
5. For Class 2E vessels approved foam buoyancy fitted for swamped flotation - to USL Code Appendix "N" Section 10.
6. Fixed guard rails to USL Code Section 5, Sub-section E10 to be fitted at sides. Higher rails may be required.
7. An effective barrier to be fitted between rotating machinery and passengers. It should not be possible for hands to come into contact with any rotating equipment.
8. Noise level limits to comply with AS2254-1988 and AS1948. Ear muffs and plugs may be used to comply.
9. Safety equipment for class and area of operation to be to USL Code 2E or 1E requirements.
10. Operation manual to be available to operator.
11. Appropriate marine qualification for "Air Boat Operation" required (contact the Marine Safety Branch, telephone 89 247 100)
12. Fuel and electrical systems to comply with USL Code. Batteries to be kept in "acid proof boxes".
13. Propeller to be specifically manufactured for airboats or aircraft and rated for the engine used. Maintenance procedure given by manufacturer to be strictly followed.
14. Eye protection to be worn at all times.
15. Radio will be required to maintain contact with base.
16. Seat belts shall be provided for high speed vessels.
17. All other requirements to USL Code.
18. Any additional requirements if any, shall be as decided by surveyor.

Signed by: Sri Srinivas
Date Issued: 9 February 2009

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