

**GUIDANCE NOTE NO: 7/94**

**REVISION NO: 5**

## ***Northern Territory Marine Act "Small Passenger-Carrying Vessels: Survey Requirements"***

The following guidelines have been developed to advise prospective commercial operators of the general survey requirements for small passenger-carrying vessels.

### **1. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEY**

Where a vessel is used for any purpose other than as a pleasure craft and is not exempt from survey, it is subject to survey and must hold a valid NT Certificate of Survey in order to operate commercially. The *Northern Territory Marine Act* provides for fines of up to 100 Penalty points [currently \$11, 000] for non-compliance with this requirement.

#### **EXEMPTIONS**

Vessels not more than 5 metres in length and not carrying more than 4 persons and operating in declared sheltered waters are exempt from survey and manning requirements.

### **2. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this information sheet: -

A NEW VESSEL is any vessel other than an existing vessel and includes a vessel brought into the Territory from other states or overseas.

An EXISTING VESSEL is any vessel holding a current NT Certificate of Survey or an NT Certificate of Survey, which has expired, in the last three months.

A CLASS 1 VESSEL is a vessel, which is certified to carry MORE THAN TWELVE PASSENGERS.

A CLASS 2 VESSEL is a vessel, which is certified to carry TWELVE OR LESS PASSENGERS.

SHELTERED WATERS are areas designated by the Marine Safety Branch as smooth or partially smooth waters. Refer to Guidance Note: 33/98.

RESTRICTED OFFSHORE means operations within a range of 30 nautical miles to seaward.

**NOTE:** An application for initial survey and payment of survey fees must be completed prior to commencement of any survey action.

### 3. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLY**

- (i) A Certificate of Survey will NOT be issued to a CLASS 1 vessel for operation OUTSIDE sheltered waters if the vessel is less than 10 metres in length.
- (ii) A certificate of Survey will NOT be issued to a CLASS 2 vessel for operation OUTSIDE sheltered waters if the vessel is less than 7 metres in length.

### 4. **ACCEPTANCE INTO SURVEY**

#### (i) **STANDARD PRODUCTION BOATS (Steel/Aluminum) under 7 metres**

##### **Class 2 vessels:**

A Certificate of Survey may be issued to a Class 2 vessel of under 7 metres measured length for use in sheltered waters for standard production vessels where it can be demonstrated they comply with Guidance note 4/94.

The hull plating thicknesses etc will need to be given in the form of leaflets or pamphlets put out by the manufacturer. These apply only to vessels with fuel tanks above deck. Vessels with fuel tanks below deck will also need to comply with the USL Code (see Guidance Note 89.1).

**Class 1 vessels:** Must comply with USL Code.

#### (ii) **FERRO CEMENT AND TIMBER VESSELS:**

A Certificate of Survey may be issued to a Ferro-cement or timber vessel ONLY if proof is tendered that the hull is constructed in accordance with approved plans and specifications and surveyed during construction by a recognised Authority. Details for Timber vessels are given in GN 22/96. Ferro cement vessels must comply with USL Code.

#### (iii) **GRP VESSELS:**

GRP vessels must comply with USL Code. For vessels not greater than 5 m in length para (i) may be used if applicable.

#### (iv) **STEEL AND ALUMINUM VESSELS - 7 metres and over**

In general, a certificate of survey may be issued to a steel or aluminum vessel ONLY if proof is tendered that the vessel is constructed in accordance with approved plans and specifications and surveyed during construction by a recognised authority. For details see GN 26/96.

## 5. **TECHNICAL NOTES**

The following important requirements should be noted:

- (i) **Main Engines:** Petrol engines are only permitted on:

CLASS 1 vessels operating in sheltered waters and powered by OUTBOARD MOTORS.

CLASS 2 vessels operating in sheltered waters or restricted offshore waters powered by OUTBOARD MOTORS.

All outboard powered vessels for operation outside sheltered waters and within restricted offshore, Class 2C vessels shall have at least two engines each capable of maintaining adequate steerage under normal weather conditions.

- (ii) **Fuel system:** All fuel tanks must strictly comply with USL Code requirements. The carriage of extra fuel in drums to increase the range of the vessel is not permitted. All fuel piping must be seamless steel or copper: a short length of metal-braided flexible piping is permitted adjacent to the engine.
- (iii) **Safety Equipment:** All life-saving and fire-fighting appliances must be of an approved type. Lists of safety equipment requirements for various categories and classes are available from the Marine Safety Branch.
- (iv) **Communication equipment [Radio] :** CLASS 1E [vessels restricted to smooth waters] and CLASS 2E and 2D [ vessels restricted to sheltered water] need not carry a radio. For all other vessels refer to Guidance Note 91/02.

All enquiries should be directed to a Marine Surveyor.

Signed by: Sri Srinivas  
Date Issued: 1 May 2008

---

### **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/>

---

**Disclaimer :** While care is taken to ensure that information contained in NT Government publications is true and correct at the time of the publication, this information is provided on the basis that users undertake responsibility for assessing the relevance, accuracy and currency of its content. The Northern Territory of Australia gives no warranty or assurance and makes no representation, express or implied, as to the accuracy of this information or that it is suitable for your intended use. To the maximum extent permitted by law, each user waives and releases the Territory from any and all claims relating to the use of this information and in no event shall the Territory of Australia be liable for loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from the use of or reliance on it for whatever purpose.