

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



THE SMALL CRAFT (CONTROL) REGULATIONS, 2017

2017, No.38

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

THE SMALL CRAFT (CONTROL) REGULATIONS, 2017

2017, No.

THE SMALL CRAFT (CONTROL) REGULATIONS made in exercise of the powers contained in section 6 of the Small Craft Control Act 2015 No. 14 of 2015.

1. Short title

This Order may be cited as the Small Craft (Control) Regulations 2017.

2. Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires

“Authority” means The Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (“ADOMS”)

“authorised officer” means

- (a) an inspector appointed by the Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping, or any other person who has the powers of inspection under the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act 2006
- (b) any officer or soldier of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard and
- (c) any other category of persons designated as an authorised officer by the Minister

“commercial vessel” means a vessel in commercial use and carrying cargo or passengers for reward

“decal” means water resistant sticker for craft licence identification

“Director” means the Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services (“ADOMS”)

“fishing vessel” means a commercial fishing vessel solely engaged in fishing

“length” means the greater of 96% of the total length on a waterline at 85% of least moulded depth (measured from top of keel), or the length from the fore side of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that is greater

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for Merchant Shipping and Ship Registration

“owner” means the person in whose name a valid licence is issued under this Regulation

“pleasure craft” means any craft used only for sport or pleasure by the owner and where there is no commercial or financial gain

“power craft” means motorboats, powerboats, fast powerboats and personal watercraft (jet skis)

“small craft” means a vessel of less than 24 metres of length, whether non self propelled, power driven, manoeuvred by oars or poles or under sail

“SCC Code” means the Code of Safety for Small Craft attached as Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

3. Application

(1) These Regulations apply to small craft licensed in Antigua and Barbuda, or operating within Antigua and Barbuda waters, irrespective of whether the small craft is also licensed or registered under any other law in Antigua and Barbuda.

(2) Notwithstanding sub regulation (1) a vessel owned or operated by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and used only for government non commercial purposes, which falls into the description of a small craft under this Regulation shall be exempt from the provisions of this Regulation.

4. Licensing of small craft

(1) A person shall not operate a small craft unless it is licensed under these Regulations, or registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2006 No.1 of 2006 and has on board a valid license issued under these Regulations.

(2) The owner of a small craft who wishes to apply for a license shall apply to the Director and pay the fees as set out in Schedule 3.

(3) On receipt of the application and the fees, the Director shall cause the craft to be inspected.

(4) The inspector shall carry out an inspection of the small craft as soon as is practicable and\

(a) if satisfied that the small craft complies with these Regulations and the SCC Code shall issue a Safety Certificate and Licence (with decal) to the owner in the form set out in Schedule 2 and

(b) if not satisfied that the small craft complies with these Regulations and the SCC Code shall issue an Inspection Form in writing specifying the defects that are to be remedied before a Safety Certificate and Licence can be issued.

(5) When an owner of a small craft referred to in paragraph (4)(b) remedies major defects, the owner shall apply to the Director for a new inspection and pay the re-inspection fee set out in Schedule 3 and the Director shall designate an inspector to inspect the small craft as required.

(6) Where that new inspection is completed and is satisfactory the Director shall issue a Safety Certificate and Licence (with decal) to the owner of a small craft.

(7) The Safety Certificate and Licence is to be in the form set out in Schedule 2.

(8) An owner who wishes to renew the licence of a small craft shall apply to the Director and pay the fees as set out in Schedule 3.

(9) A small craft Safety Certificate and Licence is valid for five years from the date of the inspection and is subject to annual inspections. A Safety Certificate and Licence which is not endorsed for the required annual inspections is invalid and craft must be submitted for a renewal inspection and issue of a new Safety Certificate and Licence

(10) The licence decal is renewed each year upon satisfactory annual inspection, or on Safety Certificate and Licence renewal.

5. Obligations when a material change occurs

(1) An owner of a small craft any of whose particulars as set out in the Safety Certificate and Licence changes, shall, no later than 14 days after the change, file a notice of the change with the Director.

(2) A person who acquires a small craft shall, no later than 14 days after acquiring it, file with the Director a notice of change of owner.

6. Marking of small craft

(1) A person shall not operate a small craft unless it is marked in accordance with the SCC Code.

7. Operation of small power craft or personal watercraft (jet ski) near a beach

(1) Every person operating a small power craft or personal watercraft (jet ski) shall do so in accordance with this Regulation and the SCC Code and near a beach shall

- (a) depart from and proceed to the shoreline at an angle of approximately 90 degrees to the angle of the beach area for the first 200 metres from the shore
- (c) proceed at a speed not exceeding five knots while closer than 75 metres from the shore
- (d) except while departing from or proceeding to the shoreline remain at least 200 metres from the shore and
- (e) stay well away from sea bathers, and, where an area has been designated for swimming, stay at least 50 metres beyond the outermost boundary of the area except while departing from or proceeding to the shoreline.

(2) This regulation does not apply to a person who, in the exercise of duties under this or another law of Antigua and Barbuda, is operating a small power craft or personal watercraft (jet ski) as a servant of the Crown, or of a Statutory Board.

(3) A person who operates a small power craft or personal watercraft (jet ski) that does not comply with this Regulation commits an offence.

8. Personal flotation devices (lifejacket)

A person shall not operate a small craft unless it is equipped with personal flotation device, in accordance with the provisions of the SCC Code.

9. Visual distress signals

A person shall not operate a small craft unless it has visual distress signals as required by the SCC Code.

10. Sound signal devices

A person shall not operate a small craft unless it has a sound device as required by the SCC Code.

11. Navigation lights

The owner of a small craft shall ensure that it is fitted with navigation lights as required by the SCC Code if operated during hours of darkness

12. First aid kits

A person shall not operate a small craft unless it has on board an adequate first aid as required by the SCC Code.

13. Fire extinguishers

A person shall not operate a small craft that is power driven unless it has on board fire extinguishers as required by the SCC Code.

14. Anchors and mooring lines

(1) A person shall not operate a small craft unless it is fitted with anchors and cable as required by the SCC Code.

(2) The ground tackle and mooring lines shall be suitable for the size of the small craft and waters in which it operates.

15. Radios

A person shall not operate a small craft unless it is provided with marine VHF radio for the type and length of small craft, as required by the SCC Code.

16. Bailers and bilge pumps

A person shall not operate a small craft unless it is fitted with the bailers, or bilge pump as required by the SCC Code.

17. Operation of personal watercraft only during day

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft (including jet skis, canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, rowboats, sailboards or kiteboards) between sunset and sunrise.

18. Kill switch

(1) Every owner of a personal watercraft (jetski) shall ensure that it is fitted with

(a) a kill switch designed to turn off the engine when the operator loses control of the personal watercraft or

(b) a device designed to return the personal watercraft's throttle to idle when the operator loses control of the personal watercraft

(2) Every operator of a personal watercraft (jetski) shall secure the safety lanyard to their personal flotation device or wrist

19. Age and medical fitness requirements

(1) A person under the age of sixteen years shall not operate a power craft.

(2) A person who has attained the age of sixteen years may operate a personal watercraft (jet ski).

(3) A person under the age of eighteen years shall not operate a small craft for commercial purposes.

(4) The Director may order any person to undergo a medical examination, or to be tested to ascertain if the person is fit to operate a small craft.

20. Small Craft Register

The Director shall keep a register of small craft by licence number or call sign and with the name of the owner, containing the particulars included in the application for licence.

Members of the public are entitled to inspect the register and have copies made of it during normal office hours, on payment of the prescribed fee.

21. Authorised officers

(1) An authorised officer may stop a small craft without a warrant, to inspect its licence and/or certificate of registration and safety equipment.

(2) An authorised officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that a small craft is committing an offence under these Regulations may seize the small craft and arrest its master, owner, charterer, operator or any other person on board the small craft, who he or she believes on reasonable grounds, is involved in the commission of the offence.

(3) Every person on board a small craft and every owner of a small craft, shall assist an authorised officer in the carrying out of functions under this Regulation and produce to the officer the documents, and provide to the officer the information that the officer reasonably requires for the administration of this Regulation.

(4) A person shall not obstruct, assault or threaten an authorised officer in the exercise of functions under this Regulation.

22. Operating a small craft or personal watercraft without due care

A person who operates a small craft without due care and attention, or without reasonable consideration for other persons or vessels, commits an offence.

23. Operating a small craft under the influence

A person who attempts to operate a small craft while under the influence of alcohol, or another intoxicating substance, that impairs the person's ability to operate it commits an offence.

24. Operating within a radius of 15 metres

A person shall not operate a small power craft or personal watercraft (jet ski) within a radius of 15 metres of another vessel except

- (a) when operating as a servant of the Crown, or of a Statutory Board
- (b) when involved in a racing competition, or display that has been approved by the Director after consultation with the Coast Guard or
- (c) at a speed that does not exceed five knots.

25. Duty to report

(1) A person operating a small craft which is directly or indirectly involved in an accident shall, if the accident results in personal injury or damage to property, report the accident immediately to the Coast Guard and ADOMS

(2) A police officer or officer of the Coast Guard who, on reasonable grounds, believes that a contravention of sub regulation (1) has been committed may arrest without a warrant a person suspected of the contravention.

26. Offences and penalties

A person who contravenes a provision of these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction, where no other penalty is provided for, to a fine not exceeding thirty thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for one year, or to both.

27. Liability of owner

(1) The owner of a small craft is jointly and severally liable with the operator of the small craft who is liable in damages resulting from the operation of the small craft, so long as the operator was operating it with the consent of the owner.

(2) A lessee of a small craft who consents to its operation is also jointly and severally liable as though he or she were the owner of the small craft.

28. Prohibition to operate small craft

(1) The Minister may suspend for a period not exceeding one year, or may cancel, the licence of a small craft, or may prohibit an operator of a small craft from operating a small craft for any period that he or she considers reasonable, if the operator of the small craft is convicted of an offence under this Regulation.

(2) The Minister may prohibit a person from operating a small craft pending the determination of a charge against the person of causing the death of another person arising out of the use of a small craft.

SCHEDULE 1**Code of Safety for Small Craft
SCC Code 2017****General Provisions**

The Shipping (Small Craft Control) Regulations 2017 are made in exercise of the powers contained in The Small Craft Control Act No. 14 of 2015, which came into force on the 1st January 2016.

The aim of this Code is to prescribe the standards of construction and emergency equipment for small pleasure craft operating in Antigua and Barbuda, in compliance with the above regulations.

Part A - Application and Interpretation**1. Application**

The Code applies to:

All pleasure craft of less than 24 metres in length, whether non self propelled, power driven, manoeuvred by oars, or poles, or under sail. It also includes commercial vessels of less than 5 metres in length, but does not include a fishing vessel registered under the Fisheries Act No. 22 of 2006.

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this Code, unless expressly provided otherwise

Authority means the Antigua & Barbuda Department of Marine Services (ADOMS).

Coastal waters, is designated as the area of water surrounding Antigua and Barbuda extending to not more than 20 miles from a safe haven in Antigua and Barbuda and does not include any international voyage

Commercial vessel means a vessel in commercial use and carrying cargo, or passengers for reward

Fishing vessel means a vessel solely engaged in commercial fishing operations

Length means the greater of 96% of the total length on a waterline at 85% of least moulded depth (measured from top of keel), or the length from the fore side of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that is greater

Near shore, is designated as not more than 200 metres from a safe haven in Antigua or Barbuda

Open craft, refers to a craft without a cabin, or below deck facilities and where any seating is exposed, or partially exposed to the elements

Pleasure craft means any craft used only for sport or pleasure by the owner and where there is no commercial gain

Power craft means motorboats, powerboats, fast powerboats and personal watercraft (jet skis)

Protected waters, is designated as an area of sheltered waters extending to not more than 1 mile offshore of Antigua and not more than 3 miles from a safe haven and includes Barbuda lagoon

Safe distance for PWCs (jet skis) is defined as at least 15 metres from another craft underway, or not within 50 metres of an anchored or moored vessel, a person in the water, or a jetty or wharf. Freestyling or wave/wake jumping is not allowed within 30 metres of another PWC, or not within 50 metres of another vessel, or person in the water. PWC (jet skis) should not exceed 5 knots when they are closer than 75 metres from the shore

Safe haven, means a place where a craft may be anchored, beached or berthed, in such a manner that all persons on board can be safely disembarked

3. Equivalencies and exemptions

The Authority may grant exemptions or equivalencies, where considered necessary and will note such on the small craft control safety certificate issued

4. Approved equipment and material

The Authority will consider accepted international standards for equipment and material.

5. Licensing and Registration

Small pleasure craft that are not power craft and under 5 metres in length are excepted from licensing, but it is recommended they comply with a voluntary scheme. This applies to owners of canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, paddle boards, windsurf/sail boards, kiteboards, sailing boats etc. who operate only for pleasure purposes. In this case the Authority request that owners meet the relevant safety standards in this code and give details of their small craft, either online, or by completing a form, so that the small craft can be entered on the Authority small craft database.

All other small pleasure craft need to be licensed, even if they are also registered.

Small craft that are only licensed will be given a unique licence number, followed by letter P for pleasure. The letter C will be used where commercial operations apply.

Small craft that are also registered will retain the standard five character call sign.

The small craft licence is combined with the small craft control safety certificate and is valid for five years from the date of inspection.

The licence decal is renewed each year upon satisfactory annual inspection.

6. Marking of craft

The small craft license number, or registered call sign must be prominently displayed, in a contrasting colour above the waterline, where it can be clearly seen. Numbers and letters should read from left to right on both sides and be at least 75mm (3 ins.) high in block form.

The decal should be affixed on port side of the craft and be placed within 150mm (6 ins.) before or after and in line with, the licence or call sign number/letters.

It is illegal to operate a pleasure craft, or allow others to operate the craft, unless it is licensed and marked as above.

Where a small craft also has a fishing licence, it can be marked with assigned fishing number and licence decal.

This allows Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard (in their specific role for enforcement and search and rescue) to clearly identify and obtain information about that craft, to check compliance and to follow up in event of an incident, or emergency.

Small commercial craft that are not power craft, under 5 metres in length and that operate from resorts, will not require individual decal marking provided they operate:

- with a certified small commercial vessel (rescue boat) available at all times
- watersports staff can observe and monitor craft at all times

- within defined operational area limits
- safety checklist is completed, including wearing lifejackets/PFDs, with whistles to attract attention
- watersports craft are marked with resort name
- ABDF CG are aware of the resort watersports areas

Part B - Inspections

7. General

The initial or renewal survey will cover following items, as applicable; hull, machinery and propulsion, electrical, lifesaving equipment, fire protection equipment, steering systems and operational practices, including craft safety knowledge and crew competence.

8. Notice of inspection deficiencies and requirements

On completion of inspection the Authority surveyor will record any deficiencies and issue an Inspection Report form with requirements for rectification.

9. Unsafe practices - Prohibition Notice

During the course of any inspection due regard shall be given to confirming that all unsafe practices identified onboard have been corrected and this may include operational activities. A Prohibition Notice can be used to stop or prohibit an activity, if that activity involves a risk of accident leading to personal injury, or of serious pollution of any navigable waters. A Prohibition Notice can be made to have immediate effect.

Part C - Passenger and Seafarer Capacity

10. Total number of persons permitted

The total number of persons permitted to be carried on a craft will be determined by the Authority. In determining this number the Authority shall take into account stability restrictions, operating area, seating and deck area, lifesaving equipment and crew manning.

Part D - Certification

11. Application for Small Craft Control (SCC) Safety Certificate and Licence

A Small Craft Control Safety Certificate and Licence may be obtained, or renewed by making an application in writing to the Authority.

12. Small Craft Control (SCC) Safety Certificate and Licence

A craft to which this Code applies should not be operated, unless excepted, without a valid Small Craft Control Safety Certificate and Licence, issued by the Authority, after a satisfactory survey and confirmation of evidence of competence.

The Small Craft Control Safety Certificate is combined with the Small Craft Licence and is valid for 5 years, subject to annual inspection.

The inspection for renewal should be carried out up to 3 months prior to expiry of the certificate.

The annual inspection should be carried out during the period of 6 months, extending from 3 months before to 3 months after the anniversary date.

The annual inspection should be sufficient to establish that craft continues to meet requirements of the Code and on satisfactory completion the Small Craft Control Safety Certificate and Licence will be endorsed to show completion of the annual inspection.

A Small Craft Control Safety Certificate which is not endorsed for the required annual inspections is invalid and the craft must be submitted for a renewal inspection and issue of a new certificate.

13. Posting of certificates or decals

The Small Craft Control Safety Certificate and Licence should be posted onboard under transparent material and where posting due to vessel size and design is impracticable, it should be kept in a protective cover available for presentation when requested. The licence decal will also show that craft has been certified.

Part E - Construction

14. General

The construction and arrangement of small pleasure craft should allow safe operation of the craft, giving consideration to:

- seaworthiness of hull
- protection against fire
- means of escape
- guards and safety rails (rails or equivalent protection at periphery of all decks accessible to passengers and crew)
- ventilation of enclosed spaces
- electrical arrangements and battery installation
- lighting
- facilities for accommodation for use of passengers and crew
- watertight and weathertight openings
- bilge pumping
- freeboard and stability

Part F - Machinery

15. General

The design, construction, installation and operation of propulsion machinery, steering and associated safety systems should be to international standards and to the satisfaction of the Authority.

Particular attention will be paid to inboard gasoline engines and the fitting of outboard engines and the storage of gasoline and ventilation arrangements.

Part G - Safety equipment requirements for pleasure craft

16. General

The safety equipment requirements for small pleasure craft detailed below are based on the assessed risks for operations within Antigua and Barbuda protected waters, or restricted operating areas near shore, where applicable.

Where operations will include coastal waters, then safety equipment should include liferafts and/or buoyant apparatus, sufficient to accommodate the total number of persons onboard.

All safety equipment must be in good working order, be maintained and replaced in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and be within easy reach, so that can be readily used in an emergency.

These safety equipment requirements apply to pleasure craft (and commercial vessels under 5 metres in length) and are the same whether you own, rent/hire, or borrow the craft.

The same level of safety equipment will equally apply to any tenders operated from mega yachts and cruise ships, within Antigua and Barbuda waters. Similarly, where a cruising permit is issued to a visiting vessel it will include a self declaration section, regarding compliance with these operational standards for small craft.

These requirements do not apply to inflatable self propelled water toys, which are not designed for use in open waters. If these are found in open water, Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force Coast Guard will treat them as pleasure craft, that are subject to the same regulations.

This is the minimum safety equipment required onboard small craft under The Small Craft (Control) Regulations 2017 and owners/operators may wish to provide more equipment, based on their particular type of craft, activity and the operational sea area.

17. Craft up to 5 metres in length

PWCs (jet skis)

- Every person on a personal watercraft (PWC) is required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD)/lifejacket at all times when onboard, or being towed in any manner by a PWC. Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant. PFD/ lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour.

- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m in length
- Three distress flares in a watertight container, combination of orange smoke and red flare and waterproof torch/light
- One fire extinguisher
- PWC to be equipped with lanyard/kill cord for attachment to operator's body, clothing or PFD/lifejacket.

PWCs should operate at all times near shore and within navigation marks/buoyed channels and/or controlled designated areas, as applicable and during daylight hours only.

Do not operate a PWC under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Age restriction on person operating PWCs is must be 16 years of age or older.

If engaged in towing a float with a suitable PWC, it is essential to carry an observer.

A high incidence of accidents with PWCs involve collisions and when manoeuvring at speed (including freestyling and wave/wake jumping) a safe distance should be kept from other PWCs, vessels underway or at anchor, or persons in the water.

Evidence of competence required.

A pre launch safety checklist must always be completed prior to operating, or renting out a PWC.

This should include a safety information briefing for persons renting, which should cover handling and recovery skills, collision avoidance and operating area restrictions.

Canoes, Kayaks, Paddleboats, Paddleboards, Windsurf/Sailboards, Kiteboards, Sailing Boats

- One PFD/lifejacket to be worn at all times for every person on board. Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant. PFD/ lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour.

Operations during daylight hours only and near shore in controlled designated areas

A prelaunch safety check list should be completed, which includes a safety information briefing for persons renting.

Sail craft

- One PFD/lifejacket to be worn at all times for every person on board an open craft. Lifejacket or PFD should be inherently buoyant. PFD/lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m length (not required if rescue boat is available)
- One paddle, or similar manual propelling device (not required if rescue boat is available)
- If craft can hold enough water to cause capsize, then bailer or manual bilge pump required

- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness

A prelaunch safety check list should be completed.

Power craft

- One PFD/lifejacket to be worn at all times for every person on board an open craft. PFD/lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m length
- Three distress flares in a watertight container, combination of orange smoke and red flare and waterproof torch/light
- One paddle, or similar manual propelling device
- If craft can hold enough water to cause capsize, then bailer or manual bilge pump required
- One fire extinguisher
- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness

Evidence of competence required and a prelaunch safety check list should be completed.

Note for tenders that do short transfer operations then PFDs, waterproof torch/light and means of communication is sufficient.

18. Sail and power craft of over 5 metres in length up to 13.7 metres (45 feet) in length

- One PFD/lifejacket for every person on board and on an open craft it is recommended that they are worn at all times. Lifejacket or PFD should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- One lifebuoy attached to a buoyant line at least 15m in length
- If craft is equipped with a motor, then one waterproof torch/light and six distress flares in a watertight container
- One paddle, or similar manual propelling device
- If craft can hold enough water to cause capsize, then bailer or manual bilge pump required
- One fire extinguisher required if equipped with a motor and one fire extinguisher if equipped with fuel burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance
- First aid kit
- A re boarding device is required if the vertical height that a person must climb to re board the craft from the water (freeboard) is over 0.5 metres

- One sound signaling appliance
- One magnetic compass
- One marine VHF radio installation
- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness

Evidence of competence required and a prelaunch safety check list should be completed, including voyage planning.

Note for tenders that do short transfer operations then PFDs, waterproof torch/light and means of communication is sufficient.

19. Sail and power craft of over 13.7 metres in length up to 24 metres in length

- One PFD/lifejacket for every person on board. PFD/ lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- Two lifebuoys, one with a self igniting light attached and one with a buoyant line at least 15m in length
- One waterproof torch/light and six hand-held distress flares, two rocket parachute flares and two buoyant smoke signals in a watertight container
- Bilge pumping arrangement required
- One fire extinguisher at entrance to accommodation space, one fire extinguisher at entrance to machinery space and one fire extinguisher if equipped with fuel burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance
- First aid kit
- Fire bucket
- A re boarding device is required if the vertical height that a person must climb to re board the craft from the water (freeboard) is over 0.5 metres
- One anchor and at least 50 metres of cable, rope or chain in any combination
- Fixed magnetic compass
- Sound signaling appliances
- One marine VHF radio installation
- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness

Evidence of competence required and a prelaunch safety check list should be completed, including voyage planning.

20. Safety equipment specifications

Lifesaving appliances

- Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) do not offer same level of protection as lifejackets for staying afloat and rolling you over onto your back so you can breathe. However, since they are designed for constant wear, they are more comfortable than lifejackets. Select a PFD based on your activity and operational area. If operating at higher speeds chose one with three chest belts for security and always in a colour that is easy to see in the water. Children should wear a lifejacket or PFD at all times when on the water and it should fit snugly and not ride up over the head. Lifejackets/PFDs should be kept in good condition and be dried in open air and not in direct sunlight.
- Buoyant line is approved for use as long as it floats, is in good condition and used only as emergency equipment.
- Lifebuoys should be at least 610 mm (24 ins.) in diameter.
- A transom ladder or swim platform meets the requirements of a re boarding device.

Fire fighting equipment

- Fire extinguishers should be ABC rated, be of correct size for the space protecting and should be maintained, serviced and recharged, as per the manufacturer's instructions

Visual and sound signals

- Distress flares should be stored in a readily accessible watertight container and should only be used in an emergency, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- If craft is fitted with navigation lights they must work and meet the technical standards set out in the Collision Regulations.

21. Operational requirements

Competency for pleasure craft operations

Evidence of competence for existing operators (prior to 1 January 2016) of small pleasure craft will be assessed on application, based on operational experience and will be stated on the small craft control safety certificate. Inexperienced and new operators (after 1 January 2016) should take an appropriate training course, or alternatively the oral, written and practical elements, based on the Authority syllabus for assessment of competence.

In the case of renting a small craft, then a rental craft safety checklist to the standards in this code must be completed. This should provide a basic safety orientation to the particular craft, its equipment and features and also cover any operational area restrictions.

Both parties, renter and craft operator, must sign the checklist as proof of competency for the rental period only and operator is required to retain for record purposes.

In the case of PWCs (jet skis), the Personal Watercraft Proficiency Certificate, or equivalent course is recommended, as evidence of competence. In the case of PWCs (jet skis) being hired out then satisfactory completion of the above course, or equivalent is required, as these operators will also be expected to give a safety briefing to persons renting and will need to sign the rental safety checklist.

Voyage planning

As a pleasure craft user you should always take into account the following points, when planning a boating trip. Weather, limitations of the craft, crew competence, navigational dangers, contingency plan and information left ashore.

Emergency procedures and accident reporting

Operators of small craft should know the relevant emergency procedures and be aware of the requirements for accident reporting.

	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA SMALL CRAFT CONTROL SAFETY CERTIFICATE AND LICENCE <i>for operating in Antigua and Barbuda waters</i>			Date of issue
				Date of expiry (Subject to annual inspections)
Name of vessel	Type of vessel			Licence number/call sign
Owner	Length (m)	No. of crew/persons	Port of licence	
Operating area and conditions of operation			Evidence of competence of operator	
Minimum freeboard amidships: with this survey having been completed at on			Issued by: (Authorized signature) Authorized stamp	
This vessel is considered to be in compliance with the Code of Safety for Small Pleasure Craft operating within Antigua and Barbuda waters, subject to exemptions or equivalencies, as applied by the Shipping (Small Craft Control) Regulations, 2017. This Safety Certificate and Licence shall remain valid until its date of expiry subject to the annual inspections below being carried out within 3 months either side of the anniversary date (based on date of expiry) each year.				
Annual inspections				
Date	Place	Authorized name & signature	Authorized stamp	

SCHEDULE 2

SAFETY EQUIPMENT			
Owner/Operator shall maintain detailed records of safety equipment and servicing as required			
Rescue boats		Fire pumps/fittings	
Life rafts/buoyant apparatus		Fire bucket (with lanyard)	
Lifebuoys with line attached		Fire extinguishers	
Lifejackets with whistles		Fire blanket	
Distress flares		First aid kit	
Magnetic compass		VHF	
Navigation lights		Water proof torch/light	
Sound signal		Bilge pump/bailer	
Anchor		Paddles	
Buoyant heaving line		Re boarding device	
Equivalencies			
Exemptions			
Remarks			
Hull survey & other examinations (as applicable)			
Last hull inspection:			
Last machinery service/report			
This Safety Certificate and Licence entitles the vessel to operate, within the operating area and conditions of operation, as defined above. If engaged in fishing the appropriate Fishing Vessel Licence should be obtained from the Fisheries Division. Third party marine insurance cover or equivalent should be obtained.			
Notice – A Licence is not a document of title. It does not necessarily contain notice of all changes of ownership and in no case does it contain an official record of any mortgages affecting the vessel. In case of any change of ownership it is important for the protection of the interests of all parties that the change should be documented according to law. Notice of changes of ownership, address or other particulars should be given to ADOMS should the vessel be lost, sold to foreigners, or broken up, notice thereof, together with the licence, if in existence, should immediately be given to the address below			

Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS)
 Corner Popeshead & Dickenson Bay Streets, P.O. Box 1394 St. John's, Antigua, West Indies
 Phone: (+1 268) 462-1273 or 462-4353 Fax: (+1 268) 462-4358 E-mail: technical@abregistry.ag

SCHEDULE 3

FEES

1. Application for small craft safety certificate and licence (other than jet ski) - \$372EC
2. Application for jet ski small craft safety certificate and licence - \$400EC
3. Application for small commercial vessel (less than 5 metres in length) safety certificate and licence - \$527EC
4. Application for re-inspection (after rectification of major deficiencies) - \$150EC
5. Application for replacement of small craft safety certificate and licence (other than jet ski) -\$222EC
6. Application for replacement of jet ski small craft safety certificate and licence - \$250EC
7. Application for renewal of small craft safety certificate and licence (other than jet ski) - \$372EC
8. Application for renewal of jet ski small craft safety certificate and licence - \$400EC
9. Application for annual endorsement of small craft safety certificate and licence and renewal of licence decal (other than jet ski) - \$312EC
10. Application for annual endorsement of jet ski small craft safety certificate and licence and renewal of licence decal - \$312EC
11. Application for inspection of watersports craft (in conjunction with inspection of (rescue boat) small commercial vessel) - \$75EC per craft

Made the 8th day of June , 2017.

Hon. Gaston A. Browne
*Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and
Corporate Governance and Minister responsible for
Small Craft.*