Are you aware of what the National Small Vessel Safety Regulations require of you?

The *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations*, *2007*, place the onus on the owner and in some cases the master (skipper), to ENSURE that the vessel and the crew comply with the requirements of the regulations when operating boats.

The SAMSA surveyors/Safety Officers do NOT replace the owners and crew in matters of safety and their main function is to ensure that the owner, master (skipper) and crew are in fact making reasonable efforts to apply regulations and maintain safety standards.

To assist the vessel's owner, owner's representative or skipper to manage safety aboard, the following checklist (and guideline) has been compiled for your attention.

The checklist is to be checked and completed prior the safety survey by the Owner or Skipper and any deficiencies noted to be rectified prior to the safety survey.

Please note that this document only covers the main issues, copies of the regulations and the amendments are published in both English and Afrikaans and may be purchased in Gazette form from the Government Printer, however, electronic copies (i.e. English text and already corrected with the latest amendments) of the regulations may be accessed from the SAMSA website: http://www.samsa.org.za/content/boating

APPLICATION: Category R Pleasure vessels, which are not passenger vessels.

Definitions:

Category R:	vessels operating solely on sheltered waters
Sheltered waters:	includes: tidal lagoon; tidal river; waters within the breakwaters of a port; and inland waters.
Inland waters:	waters of any dam, lagoon, lake, river or wetland, which are not tidal waters
Pleasure vessel:	a vessel that is used solely for sport or recreation
Commercial vessel:	a vessel that is not a pleasure vessel
Passenger vessel:	a vessel that carries more than 12 passengers
Passenger:	any person carried on a vessel, except persons employed as crew; rescued survivors and infants under one year of age

Owner(s) Declaration:

I, owner/skipper/responsible person of the vessel, have read and completed this checklist in preparation for the vessel's Certificate of Fitness Inspection.

I declare that NO modifications have been carried out to the vessel's construction, fittings and arrangements since the last survey. (If Modifications have been carried out, these must be listed below.)

_____

Vessel Name and Number

_____ _____

Name and Signature of Owner/Skipper/Responsible person — Date

Summary of modifications to vessel's construction, fittings or arrangements (if any).

WHO SHOULD SURVEY YOUR VESSEL?

- SAMSA Employed Surveyors – Surveyors permanently employed by SAMSA for the execution of SAMSA's responsibility's
- SAMSA Appointed Surveyors – Surveyors appointed by SAMSA to carry out surveys of small vessels on behalf of SAMSA.
- Authorised Agency Safety Officers – Safety officers appointed by Authorised Agency's. Survey of Pleasure vessels.

Description	Pleasure Vessels ≥ 9m but < 24m [100GT] (Certificate of Fitness)			Pleasure Vessels < 9m (Certificate of Fitness)			Notes:
	New Constr-uction	Initial Survey	Periodic Survey	New Constr-uction	Initial Survey	Periodic Survey	
SAMSA Employed Surveyor	NR(5)	X	X(2)	NR(5)	X(2)	X(2)	(2) SAMSA surveyors would normally not carry out these surveys which should be carried out by "Appointed Surveyors" or "Safety Officers"
SAMSA Appointed surveyor(3)	NR(5)	X	X	NR(5)	X	X	(5) Attendance during construction of pleasure boats is **n**ot **r**egulated (NR).
Authorised Agency Appointed Safety Officer		X	X	NR(5)	X	X	

Vessel and Owner Particulars					
Name of Vessel					
Category of operation Pleasure = Sport and/or Recreation	Cat B	Cat C	Cat D	Cat E	Cat R
Approved Marking					
Operational Limits					
Operational Home Port					
Length of Vessel					
Maximum number of persons permitted to be carried onboard					
Colour of hull and deck					
Make and model of vessel and engines					
Name of Owner					
ID Number of owner or company registration number					
Address of owner					
Telephone number of owner					
Email Address					

HAVE YOU PROVIDED SAFE ACCESS TO YOUR VESSEL?

Owners and skippers are advised that SAMSA regards the non-provision of safe access to vessels in a serious light. Safe access is a requirement for ALL persons requiring access to vessels (not just surveyors). SAMSA surveyors are instructed to issue a PROHIBITION ORDER where safe access is not provided. All work on board is to be stopped until safe access is provided to the satisfaction of the surveyor. (Merchant Shipping Act, 57 of 1951 section 9(5))

USE OF CHECKLISTS – Pleasure vessels

Surveyors and Safety Officers must receive a completed copy of the checklist at or before the time of survey.

Pages 1 and 2 of the checklist must be retained by the surveyor/safety officer that conducts the survey/inspection.

Pages 3 to 6 must be retained by the boat owner for guidance and future reference.

Competent and Responsible Manning – Pleasure Vessels		√
Crewing Regulation 14	The vessel has to be under the constant guidance of a person holding an appropriately endorsed Certificate of Competence. This certificate of competence (or a certified copy) must be available for inspection at all reasonable times.	
Manning Regulation 14	In addition to having a qualified skipper on board, the owner must ensure that the vessel is sufficiently and efficiently manned.	
Essential Safety Information Regulation 7	On EVERY occasion and BEFORE the vessel is operated: 1. Safety Equipment is on board and maintained ready for use 2. Buoyancy aids and/or lifejackets are worn at all times by children under 12 years of age and by all the occupants when directed by skipper. 3. All skippers MUST ensure that every person aboard receives essential and appropriate safety information; such as the location of the safety appliances and equipment aboard as well as instruction in the use of such items. 4. Kill switch is worn by the skipper, if vessel is under 9m and >15Hp	
Fuel reserve Regulation 8	A reserve of not less than 25% over and above the requirement for the intended voyage	
Operational Limits Regulation 10	No person may operate a vessel beyond the limits imposed by the Certificate of Fitness.	
Carrying persons in excess Regulation 11	It is illegal to exceed the number of persons specified on the vessel's safety certificate, except in an emergency such as in the case of a search and rescue operation.	
Assisting vessels in distress and reporting dangers to navigation Regulation 13	It is the duty of a skipper to report dangers to navigation and assist vessels in distress.	
Physical and mental fitness Regulation 17	No person may operate a vessel or vessel's equipment whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs. (Maximum of 0, 05 gram/100 ml alcohol in blood or 0, 24 mg/1000 ml alcohol in breath). No person may refuse that a specimen of blood or breath be taken. No person may operate a vessel if he/she is not physically able to do so and/or of sound mental health.	
Requirements for water-skiing Regulation 36	Water-skiing is only allowed in areas indicated by the regulating authority and it is not allowed at night; The towing vessel may not use a steel or other metallic rope; In addition to the skipper, there must be a competent person in the towing boat observing the water-skier; The towing vessel may not follow closer than 100 metres in the wake of another towing vessel - towing a skier, person, aquatic or airborne device. A water-skier : - must wear a suitable buoyancy aid and must have knowledge of the standard hand signals in use; - may not purposefully let go of the rope in congested areas; - may not create a nuisance or danger for other water users.	

CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS – Annex 1 (Category R Pleasure vessels (COF))		√
CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS Regulation 6	It is an offence to sell a vessel which does not comply with the construction requirements except where accompanied by a letter or certificate detailing the extent to which the vessel does not or cannot comply.	
PLANS Regulation 4	Photographs and a buoyancy certificate are required in lieu of detailed plans.	
SUFFICIENT RESERVE POSITIVE STABILITY Regulation 6	Careful consideration of vessel stability required when considering modifications to the vessel or changes in the vessels operation which increase the load carried by the vessel.	
INGRESS OF WATER Regulation 6	Decked vessels shall not have any point of possible ingress of water, except for scuppers, less than 200 mm above the surface of the water. Careful consideration required when modifications to scupper arrangements are considered. (Changes to as-built arrangements.)	
NAVIGATION LIGHTS Collision Regulations	Any vessel operating at night must have properly fitted navigation lights in accordance with the International Collision Regulations. Lights must be of an approved type; must show the correct sectors; wiring to be neat, secured and waterproof.	
BUILT-IN BUOYANCY Paragraph 1	Cat R vessels may make any suitable and reasonable provisions to ensure that the vessel retains positive buoyancy when fully flooded, swamped or capsized. (GRP/Wood =30%) Vessels are required to be provided with buoyancy certificates, confirming the provision of built-in buoyancy. These certificates are required to be kept on board with the COF and to be presented at the time of survey or when requested by an enforcement officer. Vessel arrangements must be such that the built-in buoyancy provisions and condition thereof can be reasonably inspected at every survey.	
Hatches on deck Paragraph 2	Hatches on the open deck must be provided with hatch covers that are watertight when dogged down. Special care is to be given to flush deck hatches. All watertight hatches should be able to withstand a hose test. Sailing vessels with aft facing companionways which are closed by washboards need not be watertight, but should still be able to substantially retard water ingress.	
Guard rails (Paragraph 3)	No requirement for power driven category R vessels. <u>Pleasure sailing vessels</u> All open decks or walk ways on sailing vessels should be protected as follows: Vessels 9 metres or more - 560 mm high Vessels less than 9 metres - 410 mm [see below exemption] [Pleasure sailing vessels may be exempted from railing requirements if operating within 30 nm of a safe haven and PFD worn by persons on deck]	
Towing arrangements Paragraph 4	Every vessel must be provided with an efficient means of securing a tow rope or anchor cable. Arrangements provided forward and aft.	
Underwater hull fitting Paragraph 5	Inlet and discharge pipes attached to the <u>underwater</u> part of the hull must be properly flanged to the hull and provided with a valve or shut-off cock inserted in the line as close as possible to the hull. <u>Definition of underwater:</u> The maximum loaded waterline when the vessel is heeled to 7 deg for power driven vessels and the sheer line, at midships, for sailing vessels.	
Ventilators Paragraph 6	Vents serving engine or accommodation spaces to be provided with proper closing devices or water traps to prevent water ingress into the compartment. Vents serving only engine spaces must be able to shut off air flow in case of fire.	
Inboard Petrol Engines (Paragraph 7 (4))	Engine installed in a compartment protected from spray and flooding and is adequately ventilated Manual bilge pump fitted in engine compartment Battery to be stowed outside of engine bay, protected by spray and flooding Marinised carburettor with flash arrester fitted Sparkless alternator and starter Flameproof extractor fitted to engine bay, runs for 30s before engine starts Remote controlled fire extinguishing system Auxiliary outboard fitted	
Exhaust Pipes and Silencers Paragraph 7(5)	Water cooled or lagged.	

Fuel tanks (Paragraph 8)	To be efficiently secured and constructed of suitable material; Outlets of built in tanks to have shut off valves (or approved automatic shut off or anti-siphoning devices). If not readily accessible the valves should be able to be operated remotely; Filler pipes must have threaded plugs or caps. Only non corrosive materials may be used; Breather pipes should not leak even if the vessel is heeled to 50◦; Fuel levels should be able to be determined and where gauge glasses are fitted, they must be fitted with self closing valves; All fuel tanks holding PETROL must be fitted or stored outside engine and battery compartments.	
Electrical installations (Paragraph 9) (Motor driven vessels)	Power driven vessels must be provided with at least one bank of batteries, unless the vessel is fitted only with hand-start engines. A suitable battery charging appliance must be provided. If there is more than one engine, then each engine must be provided with a battery charging appliance capable of charging both banks of batteries. A single bank of batteries must be capable of providing 12 hours auxiliary power for navigation lights, electric bilge pumps (if provided) and fixed radio equipment. Installation to conform to good marine practice.	
Electrical installations (Paragraph 9) (Sailing vessels)	Every sailing vessel fitted with an inboard auxiliary engine must be provided with at least one bank of batteries, unless a hand-start engine is fitted; At least a single bank of batteries must be provided, capable of providing 12 hours auxiliary power for navigation lights, electric bilge pumps (if provided) and fixed radio equipment. Installation to conform to good marine practice.	
Emergency steering Annex 1 Para 10	Fitted except where steered by means of a tiller. May be portable but must be accessible for rapid attachment Alternative emergency steering to be practical and demonstrated.	
Bilge pumping arrangement motor vessels Paragraph 11 Power driven bilge pump (capacity 3000 litres per hour) Hand operated pump (capacity 2000 litres per hour)	ONLY applies to vessels without self draining decks (*exceptions for ski-boats and inflatable boats, sailing or rowing dinghies who must carry an efficient bailing device)* Every power driven vessel must be provided with an efficient bilge pump. Power driven vessels of less than 7m in length may substitute the pump with an efficient bailing device, if fitment of a pump is impracticable. All bilge pumps must be fitted with piping arrangements, valves, suction and strainers for pumping out all compartments except for the fish hatch, (if it can be flooded and the vessel still maintains positive stability or adequate buoyancy). Underwater discharges need sufficient non-return valves fitted to prevent back flooding; Portable pump levers to be kept in a readily accessible space as near to the pump as possible. (In the case of pumps above deck, then in a locker above deck)	
Bilge pumping arrangements sailing vessels Paragraph 11	Every decked sailing vessel over 7m in length must have one hand operated bilge pump. Capacity 2000 litres per hour; Underwater discharges need sufficient non-return valves fitted to prevent back flooding; Portable pump levers to be kept in a readily accessible space as near to the pump as possible. (In the case of pumps above deck, then in a locker above deck)	
Visibility at steering position (Paragraph 12)	Clear visibility, through safety-toughened clear glass (*i.e. not through opaque and starred plastic*), forward, from two points abaft the beam on each side (112½◦ to port and stbd of the centre line) or out in the open. Protection of glare from the sun may be afforded by portable tinted screens (or the roll-down type) and not fixed/stuck to the glass.	
Maintenance of propulsion and steering machinery (Paragraph 13)	Periodically serviced and maintained according to the manufacturers specifications by competent persons.	
Gas appliances (Paragraph 15)	The device must be maintained in good working order at all times.	
Dive boats (Paragraph 17)	To provide adequately secured racks for accommodating all the dive tanks.	

SAFETY APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT: Category R Pleasure vessels (COF)
Annexure 2 of National Small Vessel Safety Regulations, 2007.

Safety Item No	Description	Remarks				√
2	Approved Buoyancy aid To be fitted with the following, Whistle, Lifting loop and Retro–reflective material These devices provide for continuous wear and provide lift, without significant face-up turning ability Where the people onboard the vessel are NOT competent swimmers, SAMSA strongly recommends that sufficient level 100 lifejackets be provided.	**DAY OPERATIONS**	**SANS 12402-5**	**Level 50**	**ONE per Person**	
		NIGHT OPERATIONS	**SANS 12402-3**	**Level 150**		
		Pleasure Vessels PFD's to be worn by: a) every child under 12 (twelve) years of age on deck whilst the vessel is underway b) when directed by the skipper c) persons engaged in water skiing activity SAMSA advises recreational vessels to consider the wisdom of wearing a comfortable buoyancy aid at all times whilst on the water. SAMSA strongly recommends an approved light; if operating at night.				
10	One (1) waterproof torch, spare batteries and a spare bulb	ONLY required on vessels operating at night Spare batteries and bulb to be kept in a watertight container				
11	Hand-held spotlight with own 12 V battery	ONLY required on dive boats operating at night.				
15	Code Flag "A" (rigid)	ONLY required on dive boats				
21	Depth sounding device or hand lead line	ONLY required on dive boats				
24	Suitable approved fire extinguishers	One per engine, and, in decked vessels of 9 (nine) metres or more in length, one (1) in each compartment formed by a complete transverse bulkhead (e.g. galley, sleeping accommodation and wheelhouse). Serviced annually by an approved DOTFAS/SANS station				
26	2 Oars or paddles	Only for single outboard engine vessels				
27	Grab-line fitted to outside of gunwale	Required ONLY for dive boats. Not required if equipped with a boarding ladder.				
28	Capsize rope for use when vessel is inverted in the water	ONLY for inflatable vessels and ski-boats less then 9 (nine) metres in overall length. Rope to be attached when proceeding to sea.				
29	Full set of sails, including storm sails	ONLY required on sailing vessels				
32	Proper patent anchor and chain, with a suitable length of rope for the area of operation	*Length of chain:* Vessels of 6 (six) metres and more - at least 5 (five) metres Vessels under 6 (six) metres - at least 3 metres *Length of Rope:* At least 50 metres, may be reduced to not less than 3x depth.				
36	First-aid kit	To be suitable for the vessel's size, compliment and intended operation, to the satisfaction of the surveyor or safety officer. To include an elementary first-aid manual.				
37	Suitable air bellows and repair kit	ONLY required on inflatable vessels				
38	SAMSA Approved self inflating life-raft capable of carrying all persons aboard	Life-raft ONLY required if built in buoyancy, one compartment flooding or two chamber flooding (Inflatables) is NOT provided.				
39	Spares	Adequate for the purpose of carrying out emergency repairs.				
40	Tools	Adequate for the purpose of carrying out emergency repairs.				
Annex 2 Para 3(1)	Marking of equipment	All life-jackets, buoyancy aids, life-buoys, Dan-buoys, flares, oars, paddles and life-rafts are to be permanently marked with the vessel's name or "approved marking".				
Annex 2 Para 3(2)	Marking of trailer	Where any vessel is launched from a trailer other than a dolly at a private launching site the trailer must be marked in a conspicuous position, with the vessel's name, or approved marking and with the owner's name and emergency contact number.				