



JMS FLEET CIRCULAR

FC Number : 04-2022

SUBJECT : Onboard Water-sports Activities

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Dear Captains and Chief Officers,

Recently, several Flag States have made it clear that the risks involved with water sports activities on board should be assessed using a formal Risk Assessment (RA) and that the findings of these RAs should then be used to develop onboard Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

Most of the accidents and incidents related to water sports involve human error, and their likelihood and severity can therefore be reduced by careful examination and improvement of the procedures involved. We strongly recommend all vessels in the JMS fleet to first create Risk Assessments for all water sports activities on board, to identify not only the risks involved but also the control measures to reduce them. Next, these control measures should then be used as the basis for the development of Standard Operating Procedures.

Vessels that already have these in place are encouraged to do a full review. The systematic use of RA's and SOP's for water sports should be discussed and recorded at the first next Safety Meeting.

The following course of action is recommended:

- Create/review a list of water sports activities
- Create/review a formal Risk Assessment (JMS Form HS 009-01 Generic Risk Assessment) for each of these activities to identify and quantify the risks involved, and to decide on control measures to reduce these risks.
- Create/review a formal Standard Operating Procedure for each of these activities, that insures that the control measures identified in the RA are applied. A checklist format is recommended.
- Share list, RA's and SOP's with your Yacht Managers for feedback.

The following list of activities to consider is a suggestion but is not exhaustive. A vessel specific list should be put together including all water sports related activity that involves any risk to the safety of you crew or guests.

- Tender runs with guests
- Tender runs crew only
- wake boarding/water skiing
- swimming



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- sea bobs
- jet-skis
- towable inflatables
- flyboards/hoverboards/jetpacks
- diving
- snorkelling
- jumping off the side of the vessel at anchor
- guests on the beach
- non towable inflatables like climbing walls, trampolines, slides

The following list of factors to consider is a suggestion but is not exhaustive. Any factor that contributes to the risk being assessed should be considered.

- Kill cords
- Life vests helmets, wetsuits, gloves, boots, and other protective equipment
- Weather (current and forecasted)
- Alcohol
- Insurance coverage (check with your underwriters if uncertain)
- Sufficient manning
- Instructions with regards to appropriate speed
- Crew and guest certification and training
- Monitoring, visual contact, means of communication (crew, but also guests)
- Daylight
- Danger points in area
- Medical equipment

Please contact your yacht manager if you need any clarification.

Kind regards,

Tom Vannieuwenhuyse