

IN-SITE

INSIGHT FOR OWNERS & CAPTAINS FROM JMS INTELLIGENCE
FLEET CIRCULAR



Onboard
water sports activities

Onboard water sports activities

Dear Captain, Officers and Crew,

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 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 next Safety Meeting.

The following course of action is recommended:

- Create/review a list of water sports activities
- Create/review a formal 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.

If you want support you can share your RA and SOP with JMS for feedback. Send it to hello@JMSYachting.com

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	Flyboards/hoverboards/jetpacks
Tender runs crew only	Diving
Wake boarding/water skiing	Snorkelling
Swimming	Using the yacht as a swim platform while at anchor
Seabobs	Guests on the beach
Personal watercraft (Jet skis)	Non-towable inflatables like climbing walls, trampolines, slides
Towable inflatables	Inflatable platforms for leisure or maintenance

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

If you need any assistance let us know.

Kind regards,

The JMS YACHTING Team

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