



**SOUTH AFRICAN MARITIME
SAFETY AUTHORITY
OFFICE TELEPHONE &
FAX NUMBERS**

Pretoria

Tel: 012-3662600

Fax: 012-3662601

Richards Bay

Tel: 035-788 0068

Fax: 035 -788 0067

Durban

Tel: 031- 307 1501

Fax: 031- 3064983

East London

Tel: 043- 722 4120

Fax: 043 -722 2264

Port Elizabeth

Tel: 041- 585 0051/3

Fax: 041- 585 1213

Mossel Bay

Tel: 044-6904201

Fax: 044-691 1206

Cape Town

Tel: 021- 421 6170

Fax: 021- 4190730

Saldanha Bay

Tel: 0227141612

Fax: 022 714 3635

Port Nolloth

Tel: 027-8517695

Fax: 027-8517699



**THE NATIONAL SMALL
VESSEL SAFETY
REGULATIONS 2007**

**ADDITIONAL
REQUIREMENTS FOR
COMMERCIAL VESSELS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.SAMSA.ORG.ZA AND READ THE
*MERCHANT SHIPPING (NATIONAL
SMALL VESSEL SAFETY) REGULATIONS
2007* TOGETHER WITH SAMSA'S
SMALL VESSEL POLICY DOCUMENT ;
“ MARINE NOTICE 13”**

A “commercial” vessel is any vessel used for any purpose other than sport or recreation for example, charter and passenger operations, floating restaurants, ferries, commercial fishing vessels, NSRI vessels, SAPS vessels etc.

These vessels are either “licenced” or “registered” and are surveyed by SAMSA annually for the issue of a Local General Safety Certificate.

Commercial vessels are numbered by SAMSA.

Regardless of the category, type or size require the skipper or operator has to be over 18 and hold a suitably endorsed certificate of competence and the vessel has to be otherwise suitably manned for the particular operation.

Commercial vessels ≤9m do not generally require plans before building, but the provision of built in buoyancy is important to SAMSA and proper proof of the quantity and placement needs to be provided.

When commercial vessels of >9m are built, plans are required to be approved by SAMSA before building.

Passenger vessels (vessels carrying more than 12 passengers) have strict requirements regarding the approval of plans – regardless of the size of the vessel. (No vessels may be accepted by SAMSA if not of an approved design and built under survey). In addition

there are restrictions regarding the amount of petrol carried aboard as well as needing to comply with minimum stability criteria.

The skipper of a commercial small vessel must in addition to the general rules; ensure that an approved buoyancy aid or lifejacket of the kind required by these regulations is worn by;

- every crew member performing work on deck at night,;

- every crew member performing work that creates the risk of the person being lost overboard;

- every crew member whenever a vessel under 7 metres is being operated within 1 nautical mile from shore;

The skipper of a commercial small vessel must, if it is practicable to do so, cause the vessel's emergency procedures and arrangements, including those in respect of fire-fighting, abandon ship and man overboard, to be practised at least once each week.

The crew of a commercial small vessel going to sea require safety induction training, have medical certificates and on board familiarization.

No unauthorised liquor or illicit drugs are allowed aboard a commercial vessel.

The crew accommodation, sleeping arrangements, toilets, showers, galleys, lighting of commercial vessels is regulated

(see paragraph 14 of Annex 1 available on the website)