

# South African Maritime Safety Authority

**Ref:** SM 1/5/1/46/3  
SM6/5/2/1  
SM11/1

**Date:** 6 February 2003

## MARINE NOTICE NO. 3 OF 2003

TO ALL SMALL BOAT OWNERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

### **CARVING AND MARKING OF UNDER 25 GROSS TONNAGE REGISTERED VESSELS.**

Section 20 of the Ship Registration Act, 1998, requires a registered vessel to be carved and marked. Regulation 23 of the Ship Registration Regulations, 2002 deals with the manner in which a vessel is to be carved and marked.

As it is often impracticable to inscribe all the required markings on an under 25 gross tonnage vessel, SAMSA is, in terms of regulation 23(6) of the Ship Registration Regulations, exempting all under 25 gross tonnage vessels from full compliance with Regulation 23 and will require that only the name, official registration number and length overall, be inscribed on the vessel.

#### **Marking the name:**

The vessel's name is to be inscribed in a highly visible position on both sides of the vessel. As it is envisaged that sport and recreation vessels such as yachts will also be registered under this new regime, a fair amount of latitude regarding the style and format of the lettering may be allowed on the names of all under 25 gross tonnage vessels, by the surveyor signing the Carving and Marking note.

However, in no cases may the letters of the name be less than 100 mm in height.

#### **Marking the official number and length overall.**

The official number described in the Ship Registration Regulations is a fairly discreetly placed number and is intended to identify registered vessels upon inspection

The official registration number allocated to the vessel and the length overall is to be inscribed either on a plainly visible part of the inside of the transom, or, in the case of a decked vessel on a bulkhead nearest midships in a plainly visible position.

Every reasonable effort must be made to inscribe the official number in a permanent way.

All alphabetical characters must be in the form of upright sans serif block capital letters, not being expanded or condensed forms of those letters, the height of which may in no case be less than 40mm, and the thickness of the strokes of which is not less than 20 per cent, and not more than 25 per cent, of their height. All numerals used must be in a style matching that of the alphabetical characters.

#### **Safe Ships - Clean Seas**

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#### **SAMSA BOARD**

Mr C Nissan (Chair), Mr TC Dlamini (Dep. Chair), Mr SN Mthethwa, Ms N Sithole, Mr A E Ramphela,  
Prof H. Staniland, S. Msikinya (CEO)

**The national database of small vessels and tracking numbers.**

This official number does not satisfy the need for a highly visible, exterior number similar to the Approved marking@ which is to be allocated to all unregistered or unlicensed small vessels.

This highly visible number is used to easily identify vessels and also as a tracking number on the national data base of small vessels.

Therefore registered small vessels will also be issued a SAMSA number which is to be displayed on the exterior of the vessel in the same way as the Approved marking@ to serve the purpose mentioned in the paragraph above.

Small Vessels Alicenced@ under section 68 of the Merchant Shipping Act are also required to obtain an Aofficial number@ in terms of the Merchant Shipping (Licencing of Vessels Regulations) 2002. It is SAMSA=s intention to use the same SAMSA tracking number as this official number.

In conclusion then, every small vessel, whether they are registered, licenced or in the case of unregistered sport and recreation vessels, issued with an approved marking by a SAMSA office, will all have the same SAMSA small vessel tracking number series displayed on the exterior of the vessel.

**SD MSIKINYA  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**