

South African Maritime Safety Authority



Marine Notice No. 13 of 2009

‘Carving and Marking’ Of Under 25 Gross Tons Registered Vessels.

TO ALL SMALL BOAT OWNERS, REGISTRAR OF SHIPS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND SURVEYORS

Marine Notice No.3 of 2003 is cancelled

Summary

This marine notice has become necessary due to a number of misunderstandings and incidents regarding the marking of small vessels.

Section 20 of the Ship Registration Act, 1998, requires a registered vessel to be ‘carved and marked’ and 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 described in Regulation 23 on a small vessel, SAMSA hereby, in terms of regulation 23(6) of the Ship Registration Regulations, exempts all commercial vessels under 25 gross tonnage vessels as well as recreational vessels under 100 Gross Tons, from full compliance with Regulation 23 and will require that only the name, official registration number and length overall, be inscribed on the vessel for purposes of Registration.

1 Marking the Name and Port of Registry.

Commercial and recreational vessels

The vessel=s name is to be inscribed in a highly visible position on both sides of the vessel, this may be painted on or a transfer may be used.

As sport and recreation vessels such as yachts are also registered under this regime, a fair amount of latitude regarding the style and format of the lettering may be allowed on the names of all vessels falling under the Merchant Shipping (Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007, by the surveyor signing the Carving and Marking note.

The only real criterion is that the name can be clearly made out and read. In no case may the letters of the name be less than 100 mm in height.

The Port of Registry must be placed on or near the stern as follows:

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.

2 Marking the official number and length overall.

2.1 Recreational vessels

As far as recreational vessels are concerned, the official number described in the Ship Registration Regulations may be 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 and length overall in a permanent way, which may be a plate placed in a visible position inside or outside the vessel.

2.2 Commercial vessels

On commercial vessels the official number, length overall and if known, the Gross Tons, must be inscribed on a plate which is to be placed in a visible position such as the front of the wheelhouse.

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.

3 Identification and Tracking of small vessels

As the official number issued in terms of the Ship Registration Act is not clearly visible in all cases, it does not necessarily satisfy the need for a highly visible, exterior number similar to the Approved marking@ which are currently allocated to all vessels other than registered vessels.

This highly visible number is used to easily identify vessels and also as a tracking number.

Therefore all registered small vessels operating locally must also be issued an “approved marking” which is to be displayed on the exterior of the vessel in the same way as all other vessels. These numbers are those issued by either SAMSA or one of the “Authorised Agencies”.

23 March 2009

SM6/5/2/1
SM 1/5/1/46/3
SM11/1

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