



# ***Are you aware of what the National Small Vessel Safety Regulations require of you?***

The *Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007*, place the onus on the owner and in some cases the master as well, to ENSURE that the vessel and the crew comply with the requirements of the regulations at all times.

The SAMSA surveyors do NOT replace the owners and crew in matters of safety and their main function is to ensure that the owner, master and crew are in fact making reasonable efforts to apply regulations and maintain safety standards.

To assist the vessel's owner, owner's representative or skipper to manage safety aboard, the following checklist (and guideline) has been compiled for your attention.

The checklist is to be checked and completed prior the safety survey by the Owner or Skipper and any deficiencies noted to be rectified prior to the safety survey.

*Please note that this document only covers the main issues, copies of the regulations and the amendments are published in both English and Afrikaans and may be purchased in Gazette form from the Government Printer, however, electronic copies (i.e. English text and already corrected with the latest amendments) of the regulations may be accessed from the SAMSA website:*

<http://www.samsa.org.za/content/boating>

## **APPLICATION: Shark Cage Diving Vessels**

**Additional requirements for vessels engaged in Shark Cage Diving operations.**

**This checklist is to be used in conjunction with the relevant LGSC checklist for your vessel.**

Item	Description	Remarks
1	Permit to operate shark diving vessel.	Issued by Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Permit to be onboard the vessel and valid for the area of operation.
2	Permit Conditions	Copy of the DAFF permit conditions and instructions on how shark cage diving operations should be carried out must be onboard.
3	Marking	Letter (S) to be displayed after the SAMSA number. EG: DTC 1234D(S)
4	Toilets	It is a requirement that all shark cage diving vessels have a minimum of one toilet onboard.
5	SCUBA DIVING operations	Where SCUBA diving operations are undertaken, these must be supervised by a qualified "Dive Master". In all cases, the skipper must have a "dive endorsement" on his CoC.
6	Tour Guide	A qualified SATOUR or SITE guide to be onboard.
7	Public Liability Insurance Cover	Proof of cover to be presented
8	Cages	Cages are to be designed and certified sound for the intended purpose by a registered engineer. Cages to be constructed of aluminum, stainless steel or galvanized mild steel; no sharp edges are allowed. Ropes attaching cages to the vessel must be of the same diameter as the anchor rope. Access to the cage must be provided by a door located at the top of the cage. Only one cage per vessel is allowed. Safe access to the cage from the vessel must be provided. SAMSA may require demonstration of the safe access provisions.
9	Anchors	A second anchor must be carried by the vessel, where the diving cage remains at sea between trips to shore. The second anchor must be able to anchor the vessel in the prevailing conditions. (Fitted with rope and chain, as per the equipment list.)
10	Emergency Flow Chart	A properly compiled emergency response flow chart(s) must be onboard, providing for all possible emergencies contemplated onboard and appropriate supporting information.
11	First Aid	At least one member of the crew must be qualified to a minimum of level III in first aid and have extended training for trauma and oxygen management. An oxygen cylinder with mask and shark trauma kit must be onboard.

Recommendations following the capsizing of a shark cage diving vessel. Marine Notice 19 of 2009  
[summarized]

1.	Passengers need to be briefed of what the trip will involve and all associated dangers and risks before boarding the vessel; including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Sea sickness</li><li>2. Poor Weather and sea conditions</li><li>3. Emergency procedures</li><li>4. Lifejacket demonstration</li><li>5. Option to discontinue the trip</li></ol>
2	Owners need to examine their operations and introduce control measures to reduce the likelihood of incidents that may occur. Procedures are to be introduced to address the indentified risk of incidents. Examples may include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Medical emergency involving a passenger</li><li>2. Capsizing when exiting a launch site</li><li>3. Shark bite</li><li>4. Emergency transfer of passengers at sea</li><li>5. Inoperable engines</li><li>6. Vessel drifting onto a lee shore</li><li>7. Fire during refueling</li></ol> Emergency services should be informed of these procedures
3	Passenger and crew lists must be left with the harbor controller at the launch site prior to departure of each vessel. The list will then be close at hand should it be required in an emergency. The list must contain the name of the vessel, names of all the passengers and crew, intended area of operation and the expected time of departure and arrival. This is a statutory requirement. See marine notice 7 of 2008, as amended.
4	Manning of shark cage diving vessels must conform to the statutory requirements. Volunteers can only be used as crew onboard the vessel if they are properly trained in accordance with the regulations. Volunteers that are carried onboard the vessel, who are not trained according to the regulations, must be carried as passengers.
5	Owners and skippers are required to ensure that the vessel is only used when the conditions are safe. Weather forecasts are not always correct; all available means must be used to ensure that vessels are not operated when unsafe conditions prevail.