



# ***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: Whale Watching Vessels**

### **Marine Notice: 11 of 2008 - SAMSA standards for whale watching vessels**

**Additional requirements for vessels engaged in whale watching operations.**

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

Item	Description	Remarks
1	Surf Launching	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Passenger Vessels</u> are <b>NOT</b> permitted to launch through our high energy surf lunch site or through river mouths.</li> <li>2. The launching of charter vessels (i.e. vessels carrying less than 12 passengers) from beaches or through river mouths where high energy surf is the norm will also <b>not</b> be permitted except where the surf is not high energy and the launch site is strictly controlled. The Principal Officer will use his discretion in permitting the operation and endorsing the certificate with any necessary limitations.</li> <li>3. Skippers, of charter vessels, who are allowed to launch in this manner must exercise extreme caution due to the limitations of passengers in emergency situations.</li> </ol>
2	Vessel Types	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All whale watching vessels must be fitted with a GPS receiver (used for reporting to DEA&amp;T).</li> <li>2. The construction requirements are contained regulations and summarized in the relevant vessel category checklist.</li> <li>3. Passenger vessels are limited to operations within 5 nautical miles from the shore and 15 nautical miles from a safe haven.</li> </ol>
3	Vessel Marking	<p>The letter W in brackets must be added to the vessel marking. Eg: DTC 1234 D (W)</p>
4	Local General Safety Certificate	<p>The area of operation (concession area) of the whale watching vessel must be included in the relevant space on the LGSC. SAMSA officers must sight the permit before considering appropriate wording. If the area detailed in the permit exceeds the operational area stipulated in the regulations, the latter will apply.</p>