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**THE NATIONAL SMALL  
VESSEL SAFETY  
REGULATIONS 2007**

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS  
FOR JET SKIS (PERSONAL  
WATER CRAFT)**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
[WWW.SAMSA.ORG.ZA](http://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”**

## Use of jetskis

Vessels under 3 metres may not go to sea except in areas designated by a regulating authority, but in any event no more than 1000 metres offshore. This restriction might not apply on inland waters as they are not going to sea but they must still be operated in the areas designated for their use by the regulating authority.

## Non recreational uses of Jet skis

Any jet skis used for commercial purposes require to be licenced and fall under the SAMSA survey regime. Examples would be jet skis used by authorities for patrol purposes or jetskis for hire.

These vessels require to be surveyed annually for seaworthiness and hold a valid Local General Safety Certificate.

They require numbering by SAMSA and the skippers of such vessels are required to be in possession of a suitable skippers certificate.

## Recreational use of jetskis

Unlike commercial vessels which are licenced, numbered and surveyed annually by SAMSA, pleasure vessels are subject to a lesser regime generally administered by sporting bodies.

Jetskis are all over 15HP so will require to be marked with an approved number, have certificates of fitness and be operated by or under the constant guidance of a skipper.

The Regulations require jetskis to display an "approved marking", which is a single traceable number.

At the moment these markings (numbers) are obtained from authorised agencies, which are generally sporting bodies authorised by SAMSA to carry out inspections, examine skippers and issue certificates of fitness.

In addition a "certificate of fitness" has to be issued to jetskis annually by an "Authorised Agency".

## Certificates of competence

Jetskis are over 15HP and so are required to be under the constant guidance of a person holding a suitably endorsed certificate of competence.

Persons who are under 16 years of age or who are learning may only operate the craft under the guidance and supervision of an authorised agency or under the guidance of a skipper who is certified by an authorised agency to be a competent person engaged in training for a competitive sport.

## Categories of jetskis

Jetskis over 3 metres in length should be categorised as a category D, E or R vessels in exactly the same manner as any other vessel in accordance with the owner's usage of the vessel.

For example the use of a jetski >3m as a fishing vessel is treated in exactly the same way a conventional craft operating in the same area would be. i.e. as a category D, E or R vessel.

The designation for any jetski <3 metres is always a category R.

Jet skis must have sufficient buoyancy in accordance with the relevant category. Roughly 60% for category D and E and 30% for category R.

## Equipment

Jetskis >3m going to sea or being operated in the same way as other vessels are required to carry the same equipment as other power driven category D, E and R vessels.

Jetskis <3m operating in restricted areas must still carry appropriate and relevant safety equipment as follows;

Item No.	Description of safety appliances and equipment	Cat R	
1.	SAMSA approved buoyancy aid*	X	* Buoyancy aid to be tested to the compulsory performance standard and comply with quality standard specification SABS 1417/1987, or the equivalent CE or ISO standard.
4.	Suitable tow line	X	Minimum of 10 metres in length. Not required for sailboards.