

**SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO
ALL VESSELS OPERATED ON INLAND WATERS
(INCLUDING RIVERS)**

Compiled by Lötter Wepener

REGULATIONS (for owners and operators (skippers))

1. The Regulations are to be adhered to by the owner and skipper who must comply with all Regulations.
2. There are special Regulations for "passenger vessels" which carry more than 12 passengers.
3. When a vessel is operated the skipper must ensure that:-
 - 3.1. any person on board has received safety information in relation to the location of safety appliances and how to use these; and
 - 3.2. that safety equipment is fit and ready for use.
4. Every vessel of 15 hp or more may not get under way unless there is an operational kill switch attached to the operator.
5. The skipper of a vessel must ensure at all times that the vessel is operated within any demarcated areas on inland waters where indicated on charts or otherwise.

6. No person may operate a vessel in a careless manner without reasonable consideration for other persons, taking into account *inter alia* visibility, the presence of persons or vessels and any hazard that could adversely affect the safety of persons or property.
7. Before a vessel is operated, the skipper must ensure that the vessel carries a sufficient quantity of fuel for its intended voyage.
8. Neither the owner nor the skipper of a vessel may cause or allow the number of persons on board the vessel to exceed the number specified in the certificate of fitness in respect of the vessel.
9. From August 2008 a vessel must be operated by a skipper who is physically able and of sound mental health and who holds a valid certificate of competence and is not under the age of 16 years.
10. The holder of a certificate of competence must keep the original certificate or certified copy thereof available for inspection at all reasonable times.
11. No person may operate a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor (similar Regulations as those for roads or driving a vehicle are applicable).

BOATS

12. No owner or skipper of vessel may allow a vessel to be operated unless the vessel has an "*approved marking*". (This marking is obtained from the agency who issues the certificates of competency).
13. All vessels must have a certificate of fitness issued by the authorised agency. (A certificate of fitness must be renewed every 12 months).
14. The owner or skipper of a vessel must ensure that the original certificate of fitness or a certified copy thereof is kept available on board the vessel for inspection at all times.

GENERAL

15. A police officer may board any vessel and require the owner or skipper to produce any of the documentation or certificates referred to in the Regulations and also, in the interest of safety, prohibit the operation of a small vessel.
16. Offences committed under the Regulations is liable on conviction to a fine or imprisonment for a period of not exceeding twelve months. (A Magistrate may fine a person a sum up to R5 000,00).

SKIERS

17. Water skiers may not ski between dusk and dawn and must wear a suitable flotation aid and must have knowledge of the standard hand signals, whilst he or she may not create a nuisance or danger to other water users.
18. The skipper of the towing vessel must ensure that there is competent person in the vessel to observe the water skier. There must be a 500 mm square red flag in the vessel to be used when picking up a water skier.

PERSONAL WATER CRAFT OR JET SKIS

19. Personal water craft or jet skis may operate in demarcated areas specifically set aside for that purpose only.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

20. One buoyancy aid of appropriate size to be provided for each person on board – aid to comply with SABS1417/1987.
21. If vessel is operated at night: Waterproof torch including full set of spare batteries and spare bulb (to be kept in watertight container).

22. One fire extinguisher per engine.
23. Two oars or paddles.
24. Inflatable boats – Capsize rope and suitable bellows.
25. Anchor and chain of three meters with suitable length of rope for area of operation.
26. First Aid Kit – suitable for vessel size and must include elementary first aid manual).
27. Spares – adequate to carrying out emergency repairs.
28. Tools – Adequate for carrying out emergency repairs.