



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM 6/5/2/1

Date: 26 January 2018

Marine Notice No. 6 of 2018

Additional requirements for Class V and VI passenger vessels constructed from materials other than steel.

TO ALL SHIP OPERATORS, MASTERS, BOAT BUILDERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Summary

This marine notice highlights the following:

1. Exemption for Class V and VI passenger vessels constructed from materials other than steel.
2. Additional requirements for these passenger vessels if constructed from materials other than steel.
3. This marine notice was initiated to ensure consistency across the SAMSA offices.

1. Regulation 68 of the Construction Regulations, 1968 requires Class V and VI passenger vessels to be constructed of steel. However, due to technological advances in the boat building industry many vessels are being constructed of Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP).
2. Regulation 103 of the same regulations allows for granting exemption from the requirement and this Marine Notice constitutes such an exemption on condition that the following additional criteria are complied with:
 - (a) 100% liferaft capacity. (Alternative can be considered if vessel is operating in sheltered waters no more than 3 nautical miles from starting point and in daylight hours only.
 - (b) Distance offshore is dependent on class and type of vessel specified in Construction regulations, 1968;
 - (c) The engine room(s) must be fitted with heat and smoke sensors;
 - (d) Remote control fire smothering system to be installed in the engine room(s);
 - (e) The bulkheads and deckhead of the engine room(s) must be lined with non-combustible insulation materials that will ensure that flame spread does not occur;
 - (f) Compliance with Passenger Vessel Stability Criteria as per Marine Notice 17 of 2015;
 - (g) All bilge piping, valves and hull through fittings must be constructed of steel. Non-metallic valves approved for marine use by a Recognized Organization, SABS or 'CE' type approved will be acceptable.
3. Existing vessels remain as they are, however if they undergo a major modification the above applies.

4. Above conditions are also applicable to small passenger vessels constructed of GRP.

Note:

“Passenger Vessel” means a ship carries more than twelve passengers.

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