

Marine Information Bulletin

Reportable marine incidents

Purpose

This bulletin is to advise that Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) has developed a guideline for the purpose of providing guidance to stakeholders within certain marine sectors in Queensland of their marine incident reporting obligations. This guideline will apply from 15 December 2009.

The objective of marine incident reporting is to ensure that Maritime Safety Queensland, as the marine safety regulator, is properly informed of all incidents that may warrant further enquiry. It is therefore not expected that every minor event should be reported to shipping inspectors of MSQ or the Queensland Police Service.

The guideline has therefore been developed to clarify marine incident reporting requirements that apply to white water rafting, canoeing, kayaking, organised sailboat races such as regattas, surf lifesaving carnivals and other similar activities, where frequent contact and interaction with objects, obstructions or other ships are an inherent part of that activity.

Only those events that properly constitute a marine incident within the meaning of Section 123 of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* (the Act) should be reported. The guideline's explanation of Sections 123 and 125 of the Act should encourage the proper reporting of marine incidents and so improve the efficiency of the marine incident investigation processes without compromising safety.

Background

Adventure tourism activities such as white water rafting, canoeing and kayaking have continued to grow in popularity in Queensland. These adventure activities present some safety management challenges to regulators and organisers of which marine incident reporting is one aspect of proper safety management.

Most participants knowingly and willingly accept there is a certain level of risk involved and that there is the possibility of serious injury or loss of life, while participating in these types of activities. While there are inherent risks of injury associated with these activities, in the main participants engage in the activity without injury.

Notably multiple and frequent events such as person overboard, capsizing, stranding, collisions with objects or other ships are common occurrences within these activities, as well as activities such as organised sailboat races such as regattas and surf lifesaving carnivals or other similar activities. Reportable marine incidents in these circumstances are therefore only those types of events explained under the guideline.

There are a number of considerations that should be kept in mind when considering whether an event is a reportable marine incident that are addressed by the guideline.

If in doubt about whether an event should be reported as a marine incident, then report the event as a marine incident.

Procedure for reporting a marine incident

A marine incident must be reported to a shipping inspector in the approved form F3071 by the owner within 48 hours where the incident involves the loss or presumed loss or abandonment of a ship. In all other instances, the master must report the marine incident.

The shipping inspector may be from Maritime Safety Queensland, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol or an authorised shipping inspector in another agency. A report to a police officer who is not a shipping inspector is considered substantial compliance with the reporting requirement.

Information

An information sheet for reportable marine incidents contains the Guideline and can be viewed online at <http://www.msq.qld.gov.au>.

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au.

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msq.qld.gov.au and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

Airlie Beach	(07) 4946 2200
Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
Cairns	(07) 4052 7400
Gladstone	(07) 4973 1200
Hervey Bay	(07) 4194 9600
Mackay	(07) 4944 3700
Mooloolaba	(07) 5477 8425
Pinkenba	(07) 3860 3500
Southport	(07) 5539 7300
Townsville	(07) 4726 3400