

Marine Information Bulletin

New requirements for registration of school coaching, escort and rescue boats

Purpose

This bulletin is addressed to the operators of under six metre boats providing coaching, escort or rescue services in smooth or partially smooth waters in connection with extra-curricular sporting or leisure activities for students of a Queensland school (government or non government).

These boats may now be registered recreationally, in accordance with an exemption from the regulatory requirements under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004* gazetted on 5 August 2011.

Background

The definitions embodied in the marine safety legislation would normally preclude school coaching boats owned by government schools from being registered recreationally because their use falls outside what may be regarded as private.

Since the introduction of the Australian Builders Plate requirements for recreational boats, any safety benefit to be derived from insisting on these boats continuing to be commercially registered is negligible.

The safety benefit to be derived from insisting that government school coaching boats are commercially registered is outweighed by the perceived inequity in applying different regulatory treatment and fees to boats engaged in essentially identical activities, based only on whether the school is public or private.

Application

The new exemption is confined to boats that would be entitled to recreational registration but for the fact that they are owned by a non-private entity – a government school. All other elements of the recreational test (“used only for private recreation”) must still be met.

In particular, the exemption only applies to boats providing support roles (ie coaching, escort or rescue services) in connection with extra-curricular sporting or leisure activities. It is not directed at boats used for marine studies or a marine

education course forming part of an educational program provided at a primary or secondary school.

Such boats will continue to require commercial registration. Nor is it directed at boats used to provide BoatSafe training to students in preparation for obtaining a licence. Such boats will also continue to require commercial registration.

Information

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

Available on the website, located under the Safety section are some guides of required safety equipment for each vessel class.

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