

## Passenger vessel accommodation standards

### Background

This Marine Information Bulletin updates a previous version issued 3 November 2005. It was originally issued in response to complaints about deficiencies in accommodation facilities onboard some commercial passenger vessels. These complaints included lack of toilet and washroom facilities, insufficient number of bunks, crew sleeping in corridors, and so on.

### Guidance notes

The *Transport Operations (Marine Safety – Designing and Building Commercial and Fishing Ships) Standard 2006* is made under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* and covers both performance-based and prescriptive based approaches to ship design and construction

The standard sets out an outcome that ‘a ship’s structure and accommodation should provide protection from injury and reasonable comfort to each person on board in anticipated weather conditions in the intended operational area for this ship’.

The prescriptive based approach is set out in sub-section 5E of the Uniform Shipping Laws (USL) Code — Passengers, Passenger Accommodation, Guard Rails and Bulwarks.

Additional access, egress and signage requirements that apply to accommodation spaces are set out in sub-section 5F Structural/Fire Protection or in the National Standard for Commercial Vessels part C section 4 Fire Safety.

Certificates of compliance for design, building, stability and survey must be in the approved form gazetted by government. These documents contain notes that require accredited persons to address passenger accommodation requirements when making a declaration. This may result in restrictions on the number of persons that may occupy or be berthed in spaces normally accessible to passengers.

The maximum permissible number of passengers stated on the registration or survey certificate will be the lesser of: the maximum number that satisfies the stability requirements, or the maximum number that satisfies the passenger accommodation requirements (including fire protection restrictions and deck space provisions).

### References

- *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*
- *Transport Operations (Marine Safety — Designing and Building Commercial and Fishing Ships) Standard 2006*
- Uniform Shipping Laws Code Section 5 sub-section E Passengers, Passenger Accommodation, Guard Rails and Bulwarks
- Uniform Shipping Laws Code sub-section 5F: Structural Fire Protection
- National Standard for Commercial Vessels Part C Section 4: Fire Safety

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### Information

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email [msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au).

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of ships may be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://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