

**SUBJECT: Marking of Small Craft and Licence decal**

**REFERENCE:**

*(a) The Small craft (control) regulations 2017*

**TO:** Owners, Operators, and Seafarers of small commercial vessels Registered or licensed in Antigua and Barbuda

**1. PURPOSE**

This Marine Notice provides information on the marking of small craft.

**2. APPLICATION**

This Marine Notice applies to all Small craft registered or licensed in Antigua and Barbuda.

**3. BACKGROUND**

Prior to January 2016 small craft were licensed in Antigua and Barbuda by the Antigua Port Authority with no distinction between a commercial or pleasure craft and way of identifying compliance. The new regulations introduced a new system of licensing and marking of small craft.

Small craft that are only licensed are assigned a unique licence number, followed by letter P for pleasure. The letter C will be used where commercial operations apply. Small craft that are also registered will retain the standard five-character call sign.

**4. OBLIGATIONS AND GUIDANCE**

1. The name of the small craft must be clearly displayed, in a contrasting colour above the waterline, where it can be clearly seen and not conflicting with the registered call sign or licence number markings outlined below.
2. Where appropriate small craft must also display other markings in accordance with the applicable Codes, national and international requirements as deemed necessary.
3. Registered and licensed craft
  1. The registered call sign must be prominently displayed, in a contrasting colour above the waterline, where it can be clearly seen. Numbers and letters should

read from left to right on both sides of the bow and be at least 75mm (3 ins.) high in block form.

2. The licence decal should be affixed on port side of the craft and be placed within 150mm (6 ins.) before or after and in line with call sign. The licence decal is valid for one year from the date of issue and month as hole punched.
  
4. Licensed only craft.
  1. The small craft license number must be prominently displayed, in a contrasting colour above the waterline, where it can be clearly seen. Numbers and letters should read from left to right on both sides of the bow and be at least 75mm (3 ins.) high in block form.
  2. The licence decal should be affixed on port side of the craft and be placed within 150mm (6 ins.) before or after and in line with licence number. The licence decal is valid for one year from the date of issue and month as hole punched.
  
5. Non-powered commercial craft under 5 metres in length
  1. For Small Craft of this type (which complete safety checklists, have a defined operational area and local restrictions, also certified rescue boat available) the above marking is not required. Watersport's craft should have identification marking relating to the resort.
  
6. Note
  1. It is illegal to operate a commercial vessel, pleasure craft, or allow others to operate the craft, unless it is licensed and marked as above.
  2. Where a small craft also has a fishing licence, it can be marked with assigned fishing number and licence decal.
  3. This allows Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force Coast Guard (in their specific role for enforcement and search and rescue) to clearly identify and obtain information about that craft, in event of an incident, or emergency.

**Issued by**

Antigua and Barbuda  
Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping  
(ADOMS) St. John's