
SUBJECT: Personal watercrafts - PWCs (Jet Skis) licensed by ADOMS

REFERENCE:

- a) [Small craft \(control\) regulations 2017](#)
- b) [Code of Safety for Small Pleasure Craft – SCC Code 2017](#)

TO: Owners and operators of PWCs (Jet Skis) licensed by ADOMS

1. PURPOSE

This Marine Notice provides information regarding the operation of PWCs (Jet Skis) licensed by ADOMS.

2. APPLICATION

This Marine Notice applies to all PWCs (Jet Skis)

3. BACKGROUND

The small craft regulation entered into force in 2017 and transferred responsibility of all small craft including PWCs (Jet Skis) to ADOMS. The SCC Code applies to all pleasure craft operating in Antigua and Barbuda waters of less than 24 metres in length, whether non-self-propelled, power driven, maneuvered by oars, or poles, or under sail. It also includes commercial vessels of less than 5 metres in length. It was adopted by the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda in 2017 through the Small Craft (Control) Regulations 2017 (SI 2017 No. 38). These regulations apply to small craft licensed in Antigua and Barbuda, or operating within Antigua and Barbuda waters, irrespective of whether the small craft is also licensed or registered under any other law in Antigua and Barbuda. In addition to safety equipment the Code specifies competence for operators in charge of these craft.

In the past there has not been a process whereby PWC (Jet Ski) operators can obtain in Antigua and Barbuda the Personal Watercraft Proficiency Certificate or equivalent course that is the minimum standard required for operating these craft. ADOMS with responsibility for all small craft and the originator of the Code is keen to see it properly implemented. At the same time cruise ship companies, hotels and tour companies demand evidence of training and certification for marine based tourist businesses. Responding to this, ADOMS has encouraged local companies to set up training courses for a Personal Watercraft Proficiency Certificate.

4. OBLIGATIONS AND GUIDANCE

1. Safety Certificate and Licence

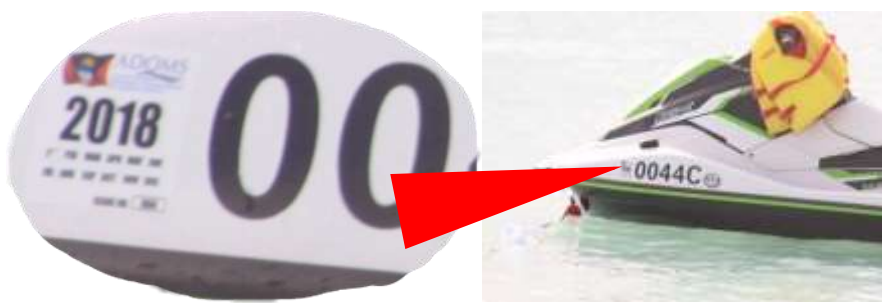
Do not laminate the original Safety Certificate and Licence

1. PWCs (Jet Skis) are surveyed and issued a Safety Certificate and Licence valid for five years, subject to a satisfactory annual self-certification.

2. The required annual self-certification should be carried out during the period of 6 months, extending from 3 months before to 3 months after the anniversary date (based on the day and month of the date of expiry) each year.
3. The inspection for renewal of the Safety Certificate and Licence should be carried out up to 3 months prior to date of expiry.
4. A Safety Certificate and Licence which is not endorsed for the required annual self-certification and without an up-to-date licence decal sticker from ADOMS is invalid and craft must be submitted for a renewal inspection and issue of a new Safety Certificate and Licence.
5. It is important that the Safety Certificate and Licence is kept in a safe place and in good condition for the annual endorsements; it may also be necessary to show this to the ABDF Coast Guard.

2. Marking of PWCs (Jet Skis)

1. PWCs (Jet Skis) are assigned a 4-digit licence number, followed by the letter P for pleasure or the letter C for commercial.
2. The 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.
3. A licence decal sticker should be affixed on port side of the craft and be placed within 150mm (6 ins.) before or after, in line and next to the assigned licence number (see photograph detail below).



4. The licence decal is valid for one year from the date of issue and month is hole punched.

3. Operator Competence

1. Personal Watercraft Proficiency Certificate, or equivalent course is required for all commercial PWC (Jet Ski) operators. It is recommended for pleasure PWC (Jet Ski) operators.

2. PWC (Jet Ski) operators must provide evidence of competence under the Small Craft Act and Regulations.
3. Evidence of competence is assessed on application, based on operational experience, and will be stated on the small craft control safety certificate and licence.
4. ADOMS recognises that there has not previously been a facility whereby PWC (Jet Ski) operators in Antigua and Barbuda can obtain a Personal Watercraft Proficiency Certificate or equivalent course. Consequently, many personnel currently operating PWCs (Jet Skis) do not hold the qualifications. Recognising this ADOMS will:
 1. Accept existing Commercial operators renting out PWCs (Jet Skis) with no formal certification who have operated PWC (Jet Skis) in Antigua and Barbuda for many years prior to 1 January 2016 who can provide a verified statement of operational experience and a PWCs (Jet Skis) safety checklist as outlined below in section 4.2.4 of this Notice.
 2. Accept existing Pleasure Operators with no formal certification, who have operated PWC (Jet Skis) in Antigua and Barbuda for many years prior to 1 January 2016 who can provide a verified statement of operational experience.
 3. Require Inexperienced and new operators after 1 January 2016 to take an approved training course. <https://www.ondecksailing.com/jetski-pwc-personal-watercraft/>

4. PWCs (Jet Skis) safety checklist

1. Commercial PWC (Jet Ski) operators are required to ensure that a PWC (Jet Ski) safety checklist and full safety brief are completed and signed by the renter.
2. Only commercial PWCs (Jet Skis) should be rented and members of the public and visiting tourists are advised to first check that commercial PWCs (Jet Skis) are marked as outlined above in section 4.2.1 of this Notice displaying a valid ADOMS licence number and licence decal sticker.
3. At the initial, annual or renewal survey, commercial PWC (Jet Ski) operators must provide evidence of completed PWCs (Jet Skis) safety checklists to renew their Safety Certificate and Licence and/or obtain a new licence decal sticker. The owner /operator must make every effort to complete a Personal Watercraft Proficiency Certificate, or equivalent course.

5. Safe operational practices for PWCs (Jet Skis)

1. Should always operate near shore and within navigation marks/buoyed channels and/or controlled designated areas, as applicable and during daylight hours only.
2. Should operate at least 15 metres (50 feet) from another craft underway.
3. Should not operate within 50 metres (160 feet) of an anchored or moored vessel, a person in the water, or a jetty or wharf.

4. Should not exceed 5 knots when they are closer than 75 metres (250 feet) from the shore.
5. Should not operate under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
6. freestyling or wave/wake jumping is not allowed within 30 metres (100 feet) of another PWC or not within 50 metres (160 feet) of another vessel, or person in the water.
7. If engaged in towing a float with a suitable PWC, it is essential to carry an observer.
8. The age restriction on persons operating a PWCs (Jet Skis) is 16 years of age or older.

6. Reporting Marine Casualties and Incidents

1. If a PWC (Jet Ski) is reported not to comply with this safe standard, then the licence will be withdrawn by ADOMS.
2. Furthermore, a high incidence of accidents with PWCs (Jet Skis) involve collisions and when maneuvering at speed (including freestyling and wave/wake jumping) a safe distance should be kept from other PWCs, vessels underway or at anchor, or persons in the water.
3. Under the Small Craft Control Regulations owners or operators are required and have a duty to report accidents/incidents to ADOMS by completing an [incident report form](#)

7. Contact information

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Issued by

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