

SUBJECT: Inspections, certification, repairs, alterations, modifications, and maintenance of conditions after inspection

REFERENCE:

- a) [The Small Craft Act 2015](#)
- b) [The Small Craft \(Control\) Regulations 2017](#)
- c) [Shipping \(Small Commercial Vessels\) Regulations 2008](#)

TO: Owners and operators of small craft registered or licensed by ADOMS.

1. PURPOSE

This Marine Notice provides information on the validity and other requirements of maintaining the conditions on the Safety Certificate and Licence issued by ADOMS.

2. APPLICATION

This Marine Notice applies to all Antigua and Barbuda small craft except for those under the voluntary safety identification system.

3. BACKGROUND

The [Small Craft Act, 2015](#) entered into force on 1 October 2015 and transferred the responsibility for the regulation of all small pleasure craft and small commercial vessels to ADOMS. The licensing, registration and inspection processes ensure that all operations, both commercial and pleasure, are carried out safely, and that all small craft are fit for their intended purpose. All small craft are now issued a combined Safety Certificate and Licence.

4. OBLIGATIONS AND GUIDANCE

1. Inspections and Certification

1. A Safety Certificate and Licence may be obtained or renewed by making an application to ADOMS [Licensing and registration](#)

2. A vessel to which the regulations apply shall not be operated without having on board a valid Safety Certificate and Licence issued by ADOMS following a satisfactory inspection [Surveys and inspections](#)
 3. Inspections for certification are based on the information, specifications, drawings, and calculations made available to ADOMS.
 4. The initial or renewal inspection will cover the following items: hull, machinery, electrical equipment, lifesaving equipment, fire protection equipment, steering systems, miscellaneous equipment and systems, sanitation and operational practices including the competence and composition of seafarers.
 5. A Safety Certificate and Licence is valid for a period not exceeding five (5) years subject to annual inspections for small commercial vessels and [annual self-certification for pleasure craft](#).
 6. The required annual inspection/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.
 7. The inspection for renewal of the Safety Certificate and Licence should be carried out up to 3 months prior to date of expiry.
 8. A Safety Certificate and Licence which is not endorsed for the required annual inspection is invalid and the vessel must be submitted for a renewal inspection and a new Safety Certificate and Licence issued.
 9. It is important that the Safety Certificate and Licence is kept in a safe place and in good condition for the annual endorsements and it may also be necessary to show this to the ABDF Coast Guard.
- 10. Do not laminate the original Safety Certificate and Licence.**
- 2. Repairs, alterations, modifications, and maintenance of conditions after inspection**
 1. Repairs or alterations to the hull, machinery, or equipment, which affect the safety of the vessel shall not be made without the approval from ADOMS, except in an emergency.

2. The condition of the vessel and its equipment shall be maintained to conform with the provisions of the regulations to ensure that the vessel, in all respects, will remain fit to proceed to sea without damage to the vessel or persons on board.
3. After any inspection of a vessel has been completed, no change shall be made in the structural arrangements, machinery or other items covered by the survey without the approval from ADOMS.
4. ADOMS may withdraw or amend a Safety Certificate and Licence if it is found that a vessel does not comply with the requirements under the regulations.
5. Whenever an accident occurs to a vessel or a deficiency is discovered which affects the safety of the vessel or the efficiency or completeness of its life saving appliances, machinery or other equipment, the master or owner of the vessel shall report it at the earliest opportunity to ADOMS, who shall determine if an inspection is necessary.
6. Guidance on reporting requirements for marine accidents or incidents can be found on our website at the following link [Marine Casualties](#)
7. Contact ADOMS' Technical Division for further information:
+1 (268) 462 1273
technical@abregistry.ag
www.adoms.gov.ag

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Issued by

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