

POLICE BOAT

**A Code of Practice for the Construction, Machinery,
Equipment and Operation of Police Rigid Inflatable Boats
and other Small Vessels Operating on Inland Waters up to
3 Miles from a Safe Haven.**

CODE D

Contents.

- 1. Title and commencement.**
- 2. Application.**
- 3. Close Company.**
- 4. Machinery.**
- 5. Survey/examination procedures.**
- 6. Protective clothing.**
- 7. Man-overboard/rescue equipment.**
- 8. General equipment.**
- 9. Small inflatable vessels engaged in Police Support Operations.**

1. Title and commencement.

1.1 This Code is called “A Code of Practice for the Construction, Machinery, Equipment and Operation of Police Rigid Inflatable Boats and Other Small Vessels Operating up on Inland Waters and up to 3 Miles to Sea from a Safe Haven”.

1.2 This Code may be identified as ‘Police Boat Code D’.

1.3 This Code shall apply together with the Police Boat Common Code from the date of commencement.

2. Application.

2.1 This Code applies to police rigid inflatable boats ~~and other~~ small vessels operating on inland waters and up to 3 miles to sea from a safe haven.

2.2 This Code allows rigid inflatable boats, inflatable boats and other similar vessels to operate up to 3 miles to sea from a safe haven.

2.3 Where a vessel certified under this Code is operating outside of the hours of daylight at sea it must:

- .1 have all persons onboard wearing personal EPIRBs, lifejackets and suitable anti-exposure clothing; and
- .2 only operate in favourable weather; and
- .3 be in regular radio contact, at intervals of no more than 15 minutes, with either an officer of HM Coastguard in a MRCC or a police representative ashore.

3. Close company

3.1 A vessel coded under Code D working in close company with a vessel coded under Code A may operate up to 20 miles from a safe haven provided the vessel certified under Code A has adequate capacity for all of those on both vessels. If operating at night, the requirements of

2.3 above apply.

4. Machinery.

4.1 Vessels operating under this Code which have mechanical propulsion, and all vessels proceeding to sea, shall be fitted with a main and an auxiliary means of propulsion which may be in the form of;

- .1 a twin engine arrangement; or
- .2 a single main engine, supplemented by an auxiliary engine of sufficient power for the purpose intended; or
- .3 a single engine supplemented by oars or paddles.

4.2 In the case of a vessel described in 4.1.1 there should be a separate fuel source for each engine achieved by installing two separate fuel tanks or by division of the main tank internally, or by carrying an alternative fuel supply.

5. Survey/examination procedures for <7 metre FRP vessels on restricted service.

5.1 Authorised police employees may carry out initial compliance inspections on new inflatable and other new small open boats up to 7 metres in length constructed of FRP and of simple construction eg. single skin. All other vessel surveys, other than the initial inspection are to be conducted by an Authorised Person. These vessels may not operate outside of Category C waters, unless they have been through full initial compliance surveys by an Authorised Person.

5.2 The initial compliance examination of a police boat described in 5.1 will normally be conducted ashore by an authorised police employee appointed in writing by the Officer in Charge of the Police Diving or Marine Unit who will complete an “Application for a Police Boat Certificate” (Annex No. 2) for the information of the authorised police employee. During the examination the authorised police employee will need to be satisfied with the general construction and maintenance of the boat, its machinery and equipment. After this examination has been satisfactorily completed the boat is to be placed in the water in order that the efficiency of its machinery, steering gear, pumping equipment and essential services can be satisfactorily demonstrated.

5.3 During the compliance examination the authorised police employee will complete the form “Record of Particulars of a Police Boat” (Annex No. 5). On satisfactory completion of the examination the form “Declaration of Examination” (Annex No. 6) will be prepared and signed and then submitted to the Officer in Charge of the Police Diving/Marine Unit responsible for the vessel.

5.4 On receipt of the duly completed forms “Record of Particulars of a Police Boat” and “Declaration of Examination” the Officer in Charge of the Diving/Marine Unit will issue a “Police Boat Certificate” (Annex No. 7) and a certified copy of the same. The certificate will normally be valid for a period of five years from the date of completion of the examination subject to the boat and its equipment satisfactorily completing the required annual examinations and being properly maintained.

6. Protective clothing.

6.1 Operational immersion/dry suits shall be provided for all persons certificated to be carried onboard. They shall be worn;

.1 whilst operating at sea more than 1 mile from a safe haven;

and

.2 at any other time when the officer in charge of the vessel so orders having made a suitable and sufficient risk assessment with particular reference to the area of operation, weather conditions and the availability or otherwise of a liferaft or other out of water support.

6.2 Where the wearing of immersion/dry is not deemed suitable appropriate protective clothing of a standard which affords protection from the elements and reduces the likelihood of hypothermia shall be worn.

6.3 Protective headgear which facilitates communication should be worn by the crew when appropriate. The protective headgear should meet a recognised standard for marine users.

7. Man-overboard/rescue equipment.

7.1 Man-overboard/rescue equipment shall be carried on board.

7.2 Where the freeboard does not allow the ready recovery of a person from the water by members of the crew, boats should be fitted with a means for the retrieval of any person from the water which should be proven by practical testing.

8. General equipment.

8.1 Each boat shall be provided with a waterproof torch.

8.2 Boats fitted with inflatable sponsons shall carry a means by which the sponsons can be inflated.

8.3 Inflatable boats should carry an oyster clamp for emergency repairs.

8.4 Each boat should be provided with bow and stern lines for securing the boat and for righting purposes.

9. Small inflatable vessels engaged in Police Support Operations in Category A and Category B waters.

9.1 Vessels engaged in Police Support Operations in Category A and Category B waters should meet the EC Recreational Craft Directive design category D. This refers to small lakes, rivers and canals where a significant wave height of up to, and including, 0.5 metres may be experienced.

9.2 Equipment carried will be to the satisfaction of the person in charge, subject to a sufficient risk assessment being conducted. Equipment carried will almost certainly be personal issue.