



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MIN 427 (M)

Lifejackets - Withdrawal of General Exemption to Carry Lifejackets on Class V Vessels on Inland Lakes

Notice to all Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Masters, Officers and Crews of Class V Vessels.

Summary

This Marine Information Note is to inform the industry that the previous provision from 1993, which exempted certain vessels on Inland Lakes and Lochs from the requirement to carry lifejackets, has been revisited in the light of safety policy developments in the intervening period, and has been withdrawn as of the 1 April 2012

Background

- 1 The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has exempted small passenger ships of class V operating on inland lakes from the requirement to carry lifejackets.
- 2 During the Formal Safety Assessment of Domestic Passenger Ships carried out as part of the follow-up to the Marchioness/Bowbelle investigation, the rationale behind the above exemption was revisited and it was concluded that withdrawal of this general exemption was appropriate.
- 3 A copy of the general exemption referred to above is attached as an annex to this MIN for reference only.

TIMESCALE

- 4 Following consultation with the Commercial Passenger Boat Operators Association it was agreed in 2007 that the affected vessels will be brought into compliance with the requirement to carry lifejackets by 1 April 2012. All operators and owners operating under this exemption were informed of this withdrawal date.
- 5 Compliance with the appropriate lifejacket carriage provisions will be confirmed by operators' local marine office at their next inspection or survey.

More Information

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Annex to MIN XXX

COPY OF GENERAL EXEMPTION – NOW WITHDRAWN

SMALL PASSENGER SHIPS OF CLASS V OPERATING ON INLAND LAKES

The Secretary of State in exercise of his power under regulation 23 of the Merchant Shipping (Life Saving Appliances for Passenger Ships of Classes III to VI(A)) Regulations 1992 hereby exempts Class V passenger vessels operating on inland lakes in the United Kingdom from compliance with regulation 7(4) of those Regulations relating to the carriage of lifejackets, subject to the following conditions:

1. The carriage of Life Saving Appliances in accordance with the attached schedule;
2. Continuous VHF contact between passenger launches and the base station;
3. An annual exercise is held on each lake, in the first 4 months of each year, to demonstrate the effectiveness of a relevant emergency plan.

The exemption does not apply to passenger vessels of Class V the keel of which was laid, or which was at a similar stage of construction, on or after 31 October 1992. This exemption, which may be cancelled or modified by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency at any time, shall remain in force until revoked.

Dated this 19th day of October 1993

P J Hambling
Marine Directorate
Department of Transport
for the Secretary of State for Transport