



Police Boat Codes, Amendment 3 (PBC3)

Notice to all Police Forces, Certifying Authorities and Boatbuilders.

This notice should be read with the Police Boat Codes, Amendment 3 (PBC3) which replace the Police Boat Codes, Amendment 2 (PBC2). This MGN may be read alongside MIN 399.

Summary

This Marine Guidance Note introduces the Police Boat Codes, Amendment 3 (PBC3) which replace the Police Boat Codes, Amendment 2 (PBC2).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Police Boat Codes, Amendment 3 (known as PBC3) provide a standard for the construction, machinery, carriage of equipment, manning, survey and certification of Police Boats. These Codes replace the existing Police Boat Codes, Amendment 2 (PBC2).
- 1.2 PBC3 provides a set of standards for boats that are used by Police Authorities throughout the United Kingdom.
- 1.3 The drafting of the Codes was undertaken by MCA in co-operation with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Diving and Marine Sub-Committee.

2. The Codes of Practice

2.1 There are five new Police Boat Codes:

- Code of Practice for the construction, machinery, survey and manning common to all police vessels - referred to as the Police Boat Common Code.
- Code A – A Code of Practice for the construction, machinery and equipment of police launches operating up to 60 miles from a safe haven.
- Code B – A Code of Practice for the construction, machinery and equipment of police rigid inflatable boats and other similar vessels which proceed to sea up to 60 miles from a safe haven.



- Code C – A Code of Practice for the construction, machinery and equipment of police launches operating on inland and tidal waters and which may proceed 3 miles to sea from a safe haven.
- Code D – A Code of Practice for the construction, machinery and equipment of police rigid inflatable boats and other similar vessels operating on inland and tidal waters and which may proceed up to 3 miles to sea from a safe haven.
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2.2 The main purpose of updating the Codes was to amend the manning standards for police marine units when operating police boats. The new standards are considered to be more pragmatic for police marine units to comply with than the previous standards.

2.3 Further information is provided in the Police Boat Common Code on when a police boat may be considered as a ship, or when it may be considered as work equipment and not fall under PBC3 or other merchant shipping legislation.

3. Survey and Certification

3.1 Existing Small Commercial Vessel Certifying Authorities, other than Local Authority Certifying Authorities, may conduct the survey and certification of vessels under PBC3. Contact details for the Certifying Authorities can be found in MIN 456.

4. Commencement

4.1 PBC3 has a commencement date of 1 June 2013. Police marine units may use the new standards from that date.

4.2 As the standards for the police boats have not been amended, the practical effect of publication of PBC3 is that the new manning standards may be used from the commencement date. There should be no practical impact on the boats being used or their certification.

5. Publication

5.1 The Police Boat Codes (PBC3) can be downloaded from www.gov.uk.



More Information

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