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## **Passenger Ships on Categorised Waters - MCA Contact Details for SAR Co-Operation Plans**

**Notice to all Shipowners, Operators and Masters of passenger ships operating solely on UK categorised waters**

*This notice should be read with MSN 1823 (either the original version or Edition 2, Amendment 1) or, for older ships, the relevant sets of regulations and guidance.*

*This MIN expires on 31 October 2019.*

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### **Summary**

This Marine Information Note (MIN) draws attention to the current contact details to which owners or operators of passenger ships that operate solely on UK categorised waters should submit their Search and Rescue Co-Operation Plans (SAR Plans). It also advises readers where to find up-to-date guidance on preparing SAR Plans.

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 A passenger ship is a vessel that is certificated to carry more than 12 passengers. In order to operate, it must be surveyed by the MCA, and be issued with, and carry, a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate.

1.2 UK categorised waters comprise inland waters including canals, lakes, rivers and estuaries. They are defined and listed in Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1837 – “Categorisation of Waters” (as amended), which is available via the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/msn-1837-m-amendment-2-categorisation-of-waters>.

1.3 Broadly, passenger ships that operate on categorised waters are covered by one of three safety regimes, depending on when they were first certificated as such.

1.3.1 Ships that were first certificated before 6 April 2010 must comply with the relevant sets of regulations and related guidance covering their construction, equipment and operation.

1.3.2 Ships first certificated between 6 April 2010 and 31 December 2017 are covered by the original (2010) version of Merchant Shipping Notice (MSN) 1823 - Safety Code



for Passenger Ships Operating Solely in UK Categorised Waters.

1.3.3 Finally, ships first certificated on or after 1 January 2018 are covered by MSN 1823 Edition 2, Amendment 1.

## **2. SAR Co-Operation plans**

2.1 Like their seagoing counterparts, passenger ships on categorised waters are required to prepare and carry onboard a SAR Co-Operation Plan (SAR Plan). They must also submit this SAR Plan to the relevant search and rescue authority for their area of operation. In most cases, this will be HM Coastguard but, for certain more remote inland areas it may be another organisation, such as the local police force. If you are unsure about the SAR authority for your area of operation, the relevant navigation authority, or the NMOC at the address given in 2.5, may be able to give advice.

2.2 Current general advice on SAR Plans is provided in Section 14 of MSN 1823 Edition 2, Amendment 1.

2.3 More detailed guidance on the preparation, submission and carriage of SAR plans on UK passenger ships is provided in new MSN 1878, which is expected to be published shortly.

2.4 Where HM Coastguard is the relevant SAR authority, SAR Plans should now be submitted electronically to the National Maritime Operations Centre (NMOC) at the following email address:-

[sarcp@hmcg.gov.uk](mailto:sarcp@hmcg.gov.uk)

2.5 If any queries or problems arise, you are advised to contact the NMOC at the address below.

National Maritime Operations Centre (NMOC)  
HM Coastguard  
Unit 12  
Kites Croft Business Park  
Fareham  
Hampshire  
PO14 4LW.

Tel: 02392 556000



## More Information

Vessel Standards Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/23  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 203 817 2000  
e-mail: [infoline@mca.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mca.gov.uk)

Website Address: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency)

General Enquiries: [infoline@mca.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mca.gov.uk)

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