



Information Sheet

Recreational Skippers Ticket requirements for Leisure Craft Operations

With the commencement of the Recreational Skippers Ticket requirements for recreational vessels in 2006, it was identified that this legislative requirement would impact upon the operation of Leisure Craft (Hire and Drive) operations. The purpose of Leisure craft (Hire and Drive) operations is to provide a hirer with a vessel that could be used for recreational purposes in Western Australian waters and in that regard may, dependent upon the vessel type and recreational use, need the requirement to hold an RST

To that end it was determined the following:

- At least one person acting as skipper/master on board a trailerable hire and drive vessel with an engine capacity in excess of 4.5kW (6Hp) must hold an RST when operating in Western Australian navigable waters. This is consistent with the general application of the RST to recreational vessels.
- On-site and itinerant Leisure craft (hire and drive vessels), such as personal water craft (PWC), house boats and party pontoons hirer's will be exempt from the requirement, subject to appropriate alternative safety interventions being in place. This is in recognition of the operating parameters of itinerant vessel operations, where vessels are limited to a tightly defined area, generally within sight of the hire and drive operator and with the availability of on-site rescue vessels or other safety interventions
 - PWCs operations will required remotely-operated cut-out switches
 - On-site operations, hiring out house boats and party pontoons, where the vessel operates out of sight of the hire operation will be required to provide the Department with approved training and assessment in the form of a safety briefing for hirers who do not hold an RST. The assessment will cover appropriate basic competencies relative to the vessel type and area of operation but will not cover all aspects of the RST, nor will it result in the issue of an RST certificate.

Type of Hire and Drive operation (see Notes overleaf)	RST Required	
Trailable dinghy ¹ (with engine in excess of 4.5 kW (6 Hp)) in WA waters	Yes	
Onsite Houseboats ² , with Department approved safety briefing for hirer's not holding an RST	Preferred	No
Onsite Party Pontoons ² , with Department approved safety briefing for hirer's not holding an RST	Preferred	No
Onsite Personnel Water Craft ² (PWC)	Preferred	No
Itinerant Hire ³ ,	Preferred	No



Notes:

1. Trailerised hire: Vessels are hired from a licensed business premise and may be operated on navigable waters throughout the State. Certificates of Operation will have prescribed limits on the area of operation. Most vessels may be used on all smooth waters and open waters within five nautical miles of the coast, although some Certificates of Operation specify a particular harbour, bay or area around an island.

2. On-site hire: Vessels are hired and operated from a Local Government Authority (LGA) approved hire site on a foreshore. Onsite hire operations require written approval from the relevant LGA. Certificates of Operation will stipulate the restricted area of operation these vessel are able to undertake activities

These activities are generally within sight of the Leisure craft (hire and drive) site operator and with the availability of on-site rescue vessels or other safety interventions.

All PWC hire and drive licences are restricted to the on-site category.

3. Itinerant hire: Operations where vessels are limited to a tightly defined area, generally within sight of the Leisure craft (hire and drive) site operator and with the availability of on-site rescue vessels or other safety interventions, or as part of, and in conjunction with, a tour operation.

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