



**PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS**  
**(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)**  
139 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Port Area  
1018 Manila

16 April 2014

HPCG/CG-8

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
**NUMBER .....02-14**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION OF RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFTS**  
**FOR THE PROMOTION OF SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA**

**I. AUTHORITY:**

- A. Republic Act 9993 (The Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009)
- B. Rule 3 (e) 1.h of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A 9993

**II. REFERENCES:**

- A. Chapter III of SOLAS 1974, as amended
- B. Philippine Merchant Marine Rules and Regulation, 1997 as amended

**III. PURPOSE:**

This Circular prescribes the guidelines and procedures for the operation of recreational watercrafts for the promotion of safety of life at sea.

**IV. SCOPE:**

This Circular shall apply to:

- A. Resort owners operating recreational watercrafts; and
- B. Registered owners of recreational watercrafts.

**V. DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

- A. **Banana Boat** - is a recreational inflatable boat usually used in beaches and carries passengers towed by a motor boat or Personal Watercraft.
- B. **Designated Areas** – refers to the location at sea identified by the PCG specifically for use of recreational watercrafts.
- C. **Human-Powered Pleasure Craft** – is a vessel primarily designed to be manually propelled by means of a double blade paddle (i.e. Dragon boat, Kayak boat, etc)

- D. Motor Boat** – refers to any of various relatively small power-driven vessels used for pleasure cruises or raising other than as Pleasure Yacht and PWC (i.e. Rubber boat, Motor Banca, etc.)
- E. Owner/Operator** – refers to an individual or entity that will represent corporations or organizations that operate business establishments engage in recreational watercrafts.
- F. Operator/Driver of Watercraft** – is the person who operates the watercraft on the water and steers towards direction.
- G. Personal Watercraft (PWC)** – a type of motorboat powered by jet pumps, not propellers, which is specifically designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than inside the vessel (i.e. Jet ski).
- H. Recreational Watercrafts** – refer to all watercrafts that are exclusively used for pleasure and waterborne activities such as PWC, banana boat, dragon boat. Kayak boat, motor boat, human-powered, parasail and sailboat.
- I. Safety Craft** – it can be a Banca boat, Rubber boat, or any other similar boat capable of assisting Sailboards or Kiteboards during its use. It can also be used as platform when conducting para-sailing.
- J. Sailboard/Kiteboard** – a relatively small vessel that has totally enclosed hull fitted with free-standing mast attached to the hull through a universal joint and that is propelled by a sail.

## **VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS:**

- A.** The PCG may conduct safety inspection to PWC, human-powered pleasure craft and motor boats used for recreational activities prior to departure or during boating operation, as the case maybe, where the PCG have personal knowledge or information that said watercrafts or its equipment or crew do not correspond substantially with the requirements of applicable safety standards as provided by this Circular.
- B.** In the course of conduct of safety inspection, where the PCG finds clear ground to believe that the PWC, human-powered pleasure craft and motor boats or its equipment or crew do not correspond substantially with the requirements of applicable safety standards as provided the Circular, are serious enough to merit detention or suspension of operation of said recreational watercraft.
- C.** The owner/operator of recreational watercraft shall submit a record of registration of their recreational watercraft at the nearest PCG Station/Detachment for purposes of monitoring all watercrafts operating in its AOR.
- D.** The PCG Station/Detachment shall designate the sailing routes in their respective areas of responsibility where all recreational watercraft can only navigate except during emergency situations.

## **VII. GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY OPERATION OF RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFTS**

### **A. Personal Water Craft (PWC)**

- 1. If every person on board a PWC is wearing a personal flotation device or a lifejacket of an appropriate size, the PWC is required to carry on board only the following safety equipment:

- a) A sound-signaling device (i.e. whistle);
  - b) Any means of communications such as handheld radio or cellular phone (must be packed in a watertight casing) capable to contact PCG or any person at the nearest beachfront;
  - c) A watertight flashlight or three pyrotechnic distress signals other than smoke signals; and
  - d) A magnetic compass, if the personal watercraft is navigated out of sight of seamarks;
2. Any person in a platform towed by a PWC is considered an occupant of the PWC, and is required to wear a lifejacket.

#### **B. Sailboard, Kite board, Surf board and water rafting**

1. If the operator of a sailboard or kiteboard is wearing a personal flotation device of an appropriate size, the sailboard or kite board is required to carry on board only the following safety equipment:
  - a) A sound-signaling device (i.e. whistle); and
  - b) Any means of communications such as handheld radio or cellular phone (must be packed in a watertight casing) capable to contact PCG or any person at the nearest beachfront or the Safety Craft.
2. However, if the sailboard or kiteboard is not attended by a Safety Craft, it is required to carry on board the following safety equipment:
  - a) A personal flotation device or lifejacket of an appropriate size for each person on board;
  - b) A sound-signaling device (i.e. whistle);
  - c) Any means of communications such as handheld radio or cellular phone (must be packed in a watertight casing) capable to contact PCG or any person at the nearest beachfront; and
  - d) A watertight flashlight or three pyrotechnic distress signals other than smoke signals.

#### **C. Human Powered Pleasure Craft and Motor boat**

1. The human-powered pleasure crafts and motor boats shall carry on board a personal floatation device or lifejacket that is of an appropriate size for each person on board.
2. In addition, human-powered pleasure crafts and motor boats shall carry on board the following:
  - a) a watertight flashlight;
  - b) a pyrotechnic distress signal other than smoke signals;
  - c) a sound-signaling device (i.e. whistle);
  - d) a bailer; or manual bilge pump; and
  - e) Any means of communications such as handheld radio or cellular phone (must be packed in a watertight casing) capable to contact PCG or any person at the nearest beachfront.

**VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**A. Owner/Operator shall:**

1. Submit record of registration of all recreational watercraft at the nearest PCG Station/Detachment for purposes of monitoring all watercrafts operating in its AOR;
2. Ensure the safety equipment or paraphernalia required in a certain type of watercraft is available onboard during boating operations;
3. Advise the operator/driver of the watercraft including its passenger is wearing a personal floatation device or lifejacket at all times during boating operations;
4. Ensure that the operator/driver of the watercraft including its passenger is not under the influence of liquor;
5. Advise the operator/driver of the watercraft to navigate only in the designated sailing routes duly established by the PCG; and
6. Report boating accident/s to the PCG in compliance to HPCG Memorandum 06-90 (Marine Protest) within 24 hours.

**B. Operator/Driver of the watercraft shall:**

1. Navigate only in the designated sailing routes duly established by the PCG Station/Detachment in their respective areas of responsibility except during emergency situations;
2. Exercise due diligence in the operation of the water craft and responsible for the safety of all the passengers including those passengers in towed Banana Boat/s or floating platforms;
3. Ensure that all passengers/riders of boats must wear a personal floatation device or life jackets at all times while on boating operations;
4. Ensure all safety equipment or paraphernalia required in the watercraft is available onboard before boating operations;
5. Report boating accident/s to the PCG in compliance to HPCG Memorandum 06-90 (Marine Protest) within 24 hours; and
6. Ensure that no passenger/s is/are under the influence of liquor while riding on the watercraft.

**IX. PENALTIES:**

**A. Boating outside the designated sailing areas**

First Offense	Fine of One Thousand Pesos (P1, 000.00) plus warning
Second Offense	Fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P3, 000.00) and suspension of PWC operation for 30 days
Third Offense	Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10, 000.00) plus impounding of watercraft

**B. Boating without wearing of personal flotation device or lifejackets**

First Offense	Fine of One Thousand Pesos (P1, 000.00) plus warning
Second Offense	Fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P3, 000.00) plus suspension of Sailboard/Kiteboard operation for

	30 days
Third Offense	Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10, 000.00) plus impounding of recreational watercrafts

**C. Operating with lack of safety equipment as provided in this Circular**

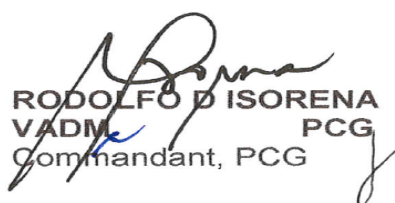
First Offense	Fine of One Thousand Pesos (P1, 000.00) plus warning
Second Offense	Fine of Three Thousand Pesos (P3, 000.00) plus 30 days suspension for the operation of human powered pleasure craft or motor boat
Third Offense	Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10, 000.00) plus impounding of human powered pleasure craft or motor boat

**D. Boating under the Influence of Liquor**

First Offense	Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10, 000.00) plus warning
Second Offense	Fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20, 000.00) plus 30 days suspension for the operation of recreational watercraft
Third Offense	Fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00) plus one year suspension for the operation of recreational watercraft

**X. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE:**

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in the newspaper of National Circulation in the Philippines.

  
**RODOLFO D ISORENA**  
 VADM PCG  
 Commandant, PCG

Approved by:

  
**HON. JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA**  
 Secretary, DOTC



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