



Marine Notice No. 75 of 2022

Notice to all Masters, Owners and Users of Pleasure and Recreational Craft

Closing date for submissions is extended to 9 December 2022

Public Consultation on a review of the Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft

The purpose of this Marine Notice is:

- (a) to inform owners, operators and users of recreational craft that the Department of Transport has commenced a review and updating of the Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft to take into account legislative and other developments in recent years, and
- (b) to invite submissions to the review process from interested parties.

As outlined in [Marine Notice No. 32 of 2022](#), the Code of Practice provides information on the legislation that applies to recreational craft, as well as safety information, advice and best practice operational guidance for owners, operators and users of a range of recreational craft operating in Irish coastal and inland waters. At present, the Code of Practice is divided into two Parts and a series of Appendices as follows:

- **Part A** (Chapter 1) outlines the legislative requirements that apply to all recreational craft or to specific types or size of craft.
- **Part B** (Chapters 2 to 11) contains recommended guidance and best practice information in relation to the safe operation of specific types of recreational craft. Chapters 10 and 11 provide general information on safety operations and emergency procedures.
- A series of 11 **Appendices** offer further advice and guidance, covering a range of topics including radiocommunications, collision prevention, weather and sea states, lifejacket use, passage planning, buoyage, anchoring, advice on purchasing a recreational craft and training course providers.

The latest edition of the Code of Practice, published in 2017, can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/66ff7e-safe-operation-of-recreational-craft/> and at www.safetyonthewater.ie.

A list of revisions and updates to the Code of Practice since 2017 is also available at gov.ie.

The current review will look at the content, structure and design of the Code of Practice, including at ways to improve the understanding of the content for end users, both in terms of presentation and layout. In line with a Core Objective of the 2021-2025 Irish Maritime Directorate Strategy, to “Enhance Maritime Safety”, the Department is also taking this opportunity to explore ways of increasing awareness of the existence of the Code of Practice, and we invite suggestions in that regard.

To be of assistance, a list of questions that might be considered as part of the process of preparing a submission is set out in the Appendix to this Marine Notice. Of course, we welcome views generally on the Code of Practice and on how we might improve the understanding and promotion of its content.

Interested parties are invited to make a submission to the review process by sending an email to the following address, putting “**Code of Practice RC**” in the subject line:

Email: CodeofPracticeReview2022@transport.gov.ie

Alternatively, submissions may be sent by post to:

RC Code of Practice Review 2022
Maritime Safety Policy Division
Department of Transport
Leeson Lane
Dublin 2
D02 TR60.

The deadline for receipt of submissions is extended to 5pm on 9 December 2022.

The Department of Transport is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, and responses received to this consultation process may be the subject of information requests to the Department under that Act.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

04/11/2022
Updated 22/11/2022

Encl: Appendix

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport

APPENDIX

Consultation: Review of the Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft

A. Topics Covered - views on existing content and suggestions for new content

1. Is there any new key information or new topics that you believe should be included in the updated version of the Code? Please provide detail of the subject matter and what might be included.
2. Are there topics you would like to know more about? What are they and why?

B. Structure and Presentation/Layout of the Code

3. What is your view on the structure of the Code? Would you like to see a change from its current form, i.e. Part A, Part B and Appendices? If you would prefer a change of structure in any Part or Chapter of the Code, can you provide an example of what the new structure might look like?
4. What is your opinion on the layout in the Code of Practice? Do you find it easy to follow? Please provide specific information regarding what elements/paragraphs/diagrams/tables, etc., are understood or not as the case may be and why.
5. Have you any suggestions to improve the layout or understanding of the content of the Code?
6. Is there particular content in the Code of Practice that you find difficult to understand? Why? What are your suggestions to improve the understanding for end users?
7. What are your views on the various formats in which the Code is available to the public? Are there other formats that should be considered and why?
8. What are your suggestions regarding how the Code of Practice could be made more user friendly?

C. Promotion/Awareness of the Code

9. What are your views and suggestions for raising and increasing general awareness of the Code of Practice?
10. What are your suggestions on the best ways to disseminate and distribute the Code? If you know of any events where it would be useful to have physical copies of the Code available for distribution, please provide details.
11. Have you any suggestions regarding alternative means of presenting the safety messages contained in the Code of Practice, either to individuals or generally, with a view to reaching or eliciting interest from a wider cohort of the public?

D. Safety Advice in the Recreational Craft Sector

12. Do you consider safety recommendations before using recreational craft? Can you elaborate on the ways you do this?
13. Where do you look for safety advice before using recreational craft?
14. Marine Notices are information notices issued by the Department of Transport from time to time to publicise important safety, regulatory and other information relating to the marine sector in Ireland. The Marine Notices are available on the department's webpage at www.gov.ie/transport and are circulated by email to those who are included on an email circulation list. Are you aware of the Marine Notices? Are you on the email circulation list for new Marine Notices?

If you wish to be added to the Marine Notice email circulation list, please send a request to: marinenotices@transport.gov.ie.