

# BOAT OWNERS

## SAFE BOATING IS NO ACCIDENT, CHECK YOUR SAFETY

### CHECK THE HULL

- Is there any built in buoyancy?
- Are guard and hand rails fitted where necessary?
- Are water intakes fitted with filters/screens
- Are bollards, fairleads etc adequate?
- Is there a boarding ladder or grab line
- Does helmsman have good all round view?
- Are controls and instruments conveniently placed?
- Are control levers arranged to prevent vibration altering settings?
- Is there a control for "Neutral" gear?
- Are steering wires, chains in good condition?
- Are pulleys, sheaves, in good conditions?
- Are engine spaces adequately ventilated?
- Are other spaces adequately ventilated?
- Is means of egress from cabin adequate?
- Is the design of the steering gear adequate?

### CHECK SAFETY GEAR

- Are navigation lights fitted/ Side Masthead Stern
- Is at least one lifebuoy carried?
- Is at least one life buoy fitted with line?
- Is at least one lifejacket per person carried?
- Is there a sharp knife on board?
- Is there a least one fire extinguisher carried?
- Is a bilge pump or bailer carried?
- Is there an efficient compass and deviation card?
- Is a first aid kit carried?
- Is a water tight torch carried?
- Is there a horn of sound signal?
- Is there a supply of distress signals?
- Is there a copy of the tide tables for the area?
- Are any charts carried?
- Is a spare outboard motor or oars carried?
- Is there a boat hook?
- Is there an anchor and cable?
- Is there a marine radio?
- Is there an EPIRB?
- Is there a sea anchor?
- Is there a painter or mooring rope?
- Is the painter or mooring rope more the twice the depth of water moored in?
- Is there a spare bung?
- Is safety equipment properly stowed and located?
- Is the fire extinguisher checked annually?
- Is the compass checked for accuracy and efficiency?
- Is the compass mounted properly?
- Are the flares current?
- Is the anchor cable or rope more than 20 metres?

### CHECK MACHINERY

- Is shafting in good order?
- Is exposed shafting guarded?
- Is there a drip tray fitted under the engine?
- Is the exhaust line adequate?
- Is suitable silencer fitted?
- Is "stop" control for engine near helmsman?
- Is there an ammeter?
- Is there ignition warning light?
- Is there an oil pressure light?

- Is there a cooling water temperature gauge?
- Is there an engine tachometer?
- Is the fuel tank properly constructed and secure?
- Is the fuel tank well sited?
- Has the fuel a tank proper filler pipe lead to deck?
- Is a filler pipe marked and fitted with watertight cap?
- Is a fuel tank vent pipe fitted?
- Is the fuel tank vent pipe of adequate size?
- Are gauzes fitted to filter and vent pipes?
- Is fuel piping of suitable material?
- Are fuel filters fitted?
- Is there a fuel pump?

### AIR-COOLED ENGINES

- Is cold circulating pipes of suitable materials?
- Is hot air exhaust adequate?

### WATER COOLED ENGINES

- Are circulating pipes of suitable materials?
- Are suitable circulating pumps self-priming?
- Is cooling system adequate?

### PETROL ENGINES

- Are flames arrestors fitted to air intakes?
- Are drip trays fitted under carburettors?
- Are automatic gas detectors fitted?

### OUTBOARD ENGINES

- Is transom strong enough for size of motor?
- Is motor properly mounted?
- Is there a spare fuel supply?
- Is there a safety chain fitted?
- Is there a transom well?
- Is the fuel tank situated low down in the boat?
- Is the fuel tank not too near the engine?
- Is the fuel tank vent pipe correct size?
- Are starting motors and generators mounted high as possible above the bilge as possible?
- Are open ended generators fitted with flame arrestors?

### ELECTRICAL

- Is installation generally in good condition?
- Is wiring of marine quality?
- Is wiring adequately clipped and protected?
- Are batteries properly secured and protected?
- Is drip tray fitted under batteries?
- Is system adequately Fused?

### COOKING AND HEATING

- Is cooking stove safely mounted?
- Is gas installation safely fitted?
- Are gas bottles safely stowed?
- Are heating appliances safe?

### SPARE GEAR

- Spare plugs?
- Spare vee belts?
- Spare starting Cord (outboards)?
- Spare fuses?
- Spare bulbs?
- Spare torch batteries?
- Is spare gear properly stowed?

### TOOLS

- Screwdriver?
- Spark plug spanner?
- Selection of spanners and wrenches?
- Pliers?
- Knife?
- Hammer?
- Insulating tape?
- Servicing manual for engine?
- Are tools properly stowed?

### CHECK YOURSELF

- Do you always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return?
- Do you know the "Rules of the Road"?
- Do you know the Water Recreation Regulations or local bylaws?
- Do you really know how to use a fire extinguisher?
- Do you know what precautions to take against fire, or explosion before, during, and after refuelling?
- Do you know what to do if your engine stops at sea?
- Do you insist on children and non-swimmers wearing lifejackets in your boat?
- Do you know what distress signals are used afloat?
- Do you know how to use the distress signals carried on your boat?
- Do you know how to use a chart?

### PASS OR FAIL

Only you will know the answer, but this is one test in which high scores are not enough. Every X answer calls for careful thought. If any one these items are missing for example, your boat immediately fails the safety test:

- \* Life Jackets      \* Bailer
- \* Extinguishers    \* Anchor
- \* Oars, paddles or spare motor

**Coastguard runs a series of helpful small boat safety courses including:**

- Day Skipper
- Boatmaster
- Boatmaster Refresher
- Coastal Skipper
- Ocean Yachtmaster
- The Marine Medic Courses
- Marine VHF Operators Qualification (MVOQ)
- Understanding Radar
- Understanding GPS
- Practical Boat Handling
- Outboard Engine Maintenance
- Inboard Engine Maintenance

**Call 0800 40 80 90**