



Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary - Pacific

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Operations Memorandum

To: All Unit Leaders, Supporting Societies

CC: Board of Directors

From: Ryan Woodward
Director of SAR/Operations

Date: May 3, 2005

Re: **Community Owned Dedicated Response Vessel Licensing and Inspection**

As a result of changes to the vessel registry, all small craft within Canada now fall into one of two categories, Pleasure or Commercial. CCGA-National has lobbied strenuously to have our Dedicated Response Vessels fall into the pleasure category, and have met with success in all areas except the issue of the license numbers themselves which must be commercial. The CCGA-N has received a letter from Transport Canada exempting our community owned vessels from construction standards, inspection requirements and operator certification which in large part is due to the requirements placed upon these vessels by the CCGA. All CCGA DRVs nationwide must now be licensed as commercial vessels. In accordance with the Transport Canada policy document "Pleasure Vessel Status of Community Owned Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) Operated Vessels" (attached for your reference) which came into force on December 6, 2004 there are a number of significant points that need to be taken into consideration by vessel owners (supporting societies) for your Dedicated Response Vessels (DRVs):

-Community owned dedicated response vessels operated by CCGA units will be treated as pleasure craft by Transport Canada provided that "...they do not undertake any operations outside of SAR operations that could be considered non-pleasure in nature."

-CCGA Community owned vessels that do (even for a short period of time) engage in operations or activities that are considered non-pleasure (excluding CCGA Authorized Activities) would then also be subject to all of the requirements of a non-pleasure vessel as prescribed by Transport Canada including construction standards, equipment carriage and operator certification.

-All CCGA Community owned vessels must be licensed as commercial vessels (ie bear C #'s and **not** 14K #'s etc). CCGA community owned dedicated response vessels presently licensed as pleasure craft (K #) should be re-licensed as commercial as soon as possible. CCGA-P policy on this issue is currently under development.

Vessel owners will be able to obtain the commercial license number from Transport Canada by completing the Transport Canada form "Application for a Small Commercial Vessel Licence" (Form 20) available on the Transport Canada website at www.tc.gc.ca/pdf/84-0166.pdf and mailing it to

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Transport Canada at the address indicated on the form. There are no charges for the application process as long as under section C of the form (type of vessel) the applicant remembers to select "other" and describes the vessel as "CCGA – SAR". With the vessels that have already changed licencing we have found that the turnaround time has been approximately two weeks and that the process has gone relatively smoothly.

Additionally, for the inspections required by the CCGA-P for Community owned vessels until further notice and in the absence of any other inspection requirements, we will still require the successful completion of the combined CCGA-P Inspection/Offer form however, examiners will not be able to issue PCCC decals upon successful inspection completion.

If you have any questions please contact Ryan Woodward at 604-214-8206 at home, 604-961-8206 cell/pager or by email at ryan.woodward@ccga-p.ca