



USE OF SIMPLIFIED STABILITY CRITERIA DECKED AND OPEN VESSELS <7.5M LENGTH CARRYING PASSENGERS TO SEA

This document describes a solution that the National Regulator considers will achieve the outcome required by the applicable standard, within the limits of the service category of the vessel on which the solution is implemented. It is not the only solution that may achieve the required outcome.

Application

Use of simplified stability criteria for Decked and Open Vessels <7.5m length, carrying passengers in operational area C, and where the freeboard requirements to the deck do not meet the criteria of chapter 7B in NSCV Part C, Section 6, Subsection 6A – Intact Stability Requirements (NSCV C6A).

This GES is only applicable in the following circumstances:

- The vessel is <7.5m in measured length
- The vessel carries ≤6 pax
- The vessel only operates in inshore waters, laterally along the coast from the base or regular port of departure, and within a limit of 15 nautical miles to seaward of the coast; or of designated sheltered water limits; or within lesser limits as may be specified

The National Regulator considers that vessels that use this GES to comply with the stability requirements of chapter 7B of NSCV C6A would only operate in operational area C where:

- the most current environmental parameters **forecast** by the Bureau of Meteorology for the duration and area of operation include:
 - Significant wave height <2.5m
 - Wind speeds gusting <25 knots, **AND**
- the vessels operator has operational processes in place that ensure that the vessel returns to sheltered waters when **actual** environmental parameters exceed the following:
 - Significant wave height >2.5m
 - Wind speeds gusting >20 knots

Current requirements

The current requirements in chapter 7B of NSCV C6A, for well decked vessels carrying passengers to sea, are to have a minimum freeboard to the lowest weather tight deck in accordance with Table 29 and meet the inclined freeboard requirements of criterion 7B.2b in Table 30 specific to well deck vessels.

Equivalent solution

The National Regulator considers that well decked vessels that are <7.5m in measured length, intending to operate to sea in operational area C, carrying passengers, using the simplified intact stability criteria found in chapter 7B of NSCV C6A, may utilise the stability criteria applicable to an Open Vessel, subject to the following:

- The freeboard to the weather deck should be positive in all loading conditions.
- The vessel is to fully comply with the requirements of level flotation as per chapter 8.7 of NSCV Part C, Section 6, Subsection 6B - Buoyancy and Stability after Flooding (NSCV C6B).
 - When applying chapter 8.7, the only form of acceptable buoyancy is foam buoyancy that complies with chapter 10 of NSCV C6B.
 - Watertight or air compartments will not be accepted as additional reserve buoyancy.
- Compliance with level flotation criteria is to be verified by both direct calculation and physical testing.
 - Where the vessel is to be considered as a production type, every fifth vessel within the production that intends to meet stability compliance through the use of this GES is to verify level flotation through practical testing as per chapter 8.7 of NSCV C6B.

(continued overleaf)

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Equivalent solution (Continued)

- The recess bounded by the reserve buoyancy and gunwales should be of watertightness degree 1 and meet the standard for quick-draining cockpits for Category B vessels contained within ISO 11812 'Small Craft – Watertight Cockpits and Quick-draining Cockpits', or equivalent.
- The vessel is to comply with clause 4.4.3 NSCV Part C6B, so that when swamped, it can be demonstrated that the vessel is equipped with arrangements that enable a single person to drain all water in the well overboard, in 3 minutes or less.
- A powered and manual means of bilge pumping shall be provided to remove water above the weather deck and both must be capable of operating when the vessel is swamped.
 - The powered bilge pump may be driven by an extra low voltage electric motor. Where an extra low voltage electric motor is used to supply power, the pump shall comply with ISO 8849 - Small craft - Electrically operated direct-current bilge pumps.
- Freeing ports are to be located within the transom only and fitted with devices to prevent the back flooding of water into the vessel. Freeing ports through the side hull will not be acceptable for the purpose of applying the GES.
- Freeing ports are to be left open during the intact stability test. In the event of water entering the hull through the freeing ports during the test, the test shall only resume when the vessel has reached a state of equilibrium.
- A copy of this GES should be carried with the vessels survey records, certificates and noted on the application for a Certificate of Operation. A Delegate of the National Regulator will note the use of this GES on any certificates that are issued.