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THE NATIONAL SMALL VESSEL SAFETY REGULATIONS 2007

“APPROVED MARKINGS” OR VESSEL NUMBERING

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO
WWW.SAMSA.ORG.ZA AND READ THE
*MERCHANT SHIPPING (NATIONAL SMALL
VESSEL SAFETY) REGULATIONS 2007*
TOGETHER WITH SAMSA'S SMALL VESSEL
POLICY DOCUMENT; “MARINE NOTICE 13”
where a full list of approved numbers is published
with Marine Notice 13 as Annex 9.**

Numbering of Small Vessels

Numbering of vessels under SAMSA survey

In terms of the *Licensing of Vessels Regulations, 2002* an "official number" must be issued to a licensed vessel.

Unlike the recreational vessels, there is no statutory requirement that this be the only number on a commercial vessel. This makes sense as various other authorities may require their own identification on commercial vessels, for example, Sea Fisheries, Port Captains and the like, in order to identify those vessels for which they are also responsible, but in different ways.

In addition the recreational vessels under SAMSA survey are required to have an 'approved marking' and in practice we do not issue separate or different numbers to those recreational vessels under SAMSA survey.

Therefore, the ONLY approved numbers which are to be used for SAMSA survey and tracking purposes is the established DT...numbering system, with the addition of the letter "A" "B"...to "R" placed after the number, to denote the category allocated to the vessel.

(DTC - Cape Town / DTD - Durban / DTE - East London / DTM - Mossel Bay / DTP - Port Elizabeth / DTR - Richards Bay / DTS - Saldanha Bay)

The only exceptions regarding numbering are the vessels belonging to the SA Police, which may retain their SAP numbers but otherwise the DT.... system of numbers will be the only numbering system for any and all vessels falling under the SAMSA survey regime and whether commercial or recreational, will be easily recognisable as falling under SAMSA's immediate jurisdiction.

NB: NSRI vessels are under SAMSA survey and must therefore carry SAMSA numbers as well as their station identification.

Approved Markings for Pleasure Vessels

By regulation, the Authority (SAMSA) and the Authorised Agencies are responsible for issuing approved markings to pleasure vessels, until such time as the Department of Transport finalises a national small vessel database and marking regime.

Recreational vessels whose owners are affiliated to clubs falling under the control of designated Authorised Agencies are able to get their approved numbers from their clubs i.e. the numbering or marking systems applied to these vessels are agreed to as part of the process when appointing Authorised Agencies.

It is one of the conditions imposed on Authorised Agencies that they record the particulars of the vessel and the owner allocated the approved number (*marking*) and keep records. In future, the agencies will have to forward the details to the Department of Transport for capturing (*or updating*) a national database of small vessels as required.

Proof of the validity of the vessel's marking is interconnected with the validity of the Certificate of Fitness in that the 'approved marking' (*number*) must be issued by, and traceable through the Agency responsible for issuing the Certificate of Fitness.

The list of approved prefixes as at time of issuing this notice is attached as Annexure 9, but is based on the following principles:

- **SAMSA** uses the **DT-** (*plus a letter denoting the port of origin*) prefix system for both commercial and recreational boats with the addition of the category after the number. (eg DTC 139 B)

- **SADSAA** use current club prefixes with the addition of a new "**SR**" prefix for non-club members whose vessels have been inspected and certified by SADSAA, also with the addition of the category after the number.
- **SAS** use a national numbering system using the **SA** prefix for yachts and a **ZA** prefix for motor vessels, also with the addition of the category after the number
- **SASCA** (ex SAUU) continue with the national **U** system with the new category replacing the old category in their current system. (eg U-03-560 would become U-E-560)
- **SAIBA** continue the **IBA** prefix with the addition of the category after the existing number.
- **SA Sea Cadets** use the prefix **SC** followed by a vessel number and the 'unit identification' letters as they are generally restricted vessels and are clearly identifiable.(eg SC 202 WOL)
- **SAIS** use the prefix **A** with the addition of the category after the number
- **PSA** use the prefix **PSA** with the addition of the category after the number
- **SAPS** continue with the **SAP** prefix with the addition of the category after the number.
- **DWAF** (Department of Water Affairs and Forestry) use the prefix **DWAF**, followed by the number and category.
- **DEMO** numbers are allocated to certain boat retailers who are then able to demonstrate vessels to prospective buyers in a limited way. (i.e. a D or E category)