



EuropeAid /114385/D/SV/CY

Assessment and administration capacity building  
for the harmonisation with the New Approach directives



# INFORMATION LEAFLET

to the implementation of

**DIRECTIVE**

**94/25/EC**

on

**RC**

**Recreational Craft**

## INTRODUCTION

The European Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) came into force on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1998.

- New boats being placed on the market or put into service within the European Economic Area must comply with the RCD.
- Second-hand boats that were not built in the EEA and that are placed on the market or put into service within the EEA, for the first time, after 16th June 1998 must also comply with the RCD.

Every craft must, therefore, either be exempt from or compliant with the RCD. EU Member States have to incorporate these directives into their own legal systems.

## SCOPE

The RCD covers recreational craft measuring between 2.5 and 24 metres hull length, regardless of the means of propulsion, and intended for sport and leisure purposes, partly completed recreational craft, and the following components (as listed in Annex II of the Directive):

- Ignition-protected equipment for inboard and stern drive engines.
- Start-in-gear protection devices for outboard motors.
- Steering wheels, steering mechanisms and cable assemblies.
- Fuel tanks and fuel hoses.
- Prefabricated hatches and port lights.

## DEFINITIONS

### *How is a product defined?*

A product is defined, for the purposes of the regulations, as any recreational craft, partly completed recreational craft or specified component.

### *Who is responsible for the compliance of a vessel?*

The manufacturer / Person / Authorised Community Representative first putting the product on the EU market or into service is responsible for making the vessel compliant.

## EXCLUSIONS

In total there are eleven excluded categories of craft specified in the directive. Reference should be made to the Commissions' Comments to the directive for guidance on the exclusions.

The Regulations do not apply specifically to:

- Craft intended solely for racing, including rowing racing boats and training rowing boats, labelled as such by the manufacturer;
- Canoes, kayaks, gondolas and pedalos;
- Sailing surfboards;
- Powered surfboards, personal watercraft and other similar powered craft;
- Original, and individual replicas of, historical craft designed before 1950, built predominately with the original materials and labelled as such by the manufacturer;
- Experimental craft, provided that they are not subsequently placed on the Community / EEA market;
- Craft built for own use, provided that they are not subsequently placed on the Community / EEA market during a period of 5 years;
- Craft specifically intended to be crewed and to carry passengers for commercial purposes (without prejudice to their use for charter or for recreational boating training);
- Submersibles
- Air cushion vehicles; or
- Hydrofoils.

## CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

The conformity assessment procedure is determined in accordance with the Boat Design Category and also the size of the vessel.

Category	Significant Wave Height	Beaufort Wind /scale
A – Ocean	Exceeding 4m	Exceeding Force 8
B – Offshore	Up to & including 4m	Up to & including 8
C – Inshore	Up to & including 2m	Up to & including 6
D – Sheltered	Up to & including 0.5m	Up to & including 4

Significant wave height means the average height of the highest 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the waves over a given period. Waves of double that height may occasionally be experienced. It is possible for a vessel to have a CE marking in more than one design category, provided all requirements for those categories are met.

The conformity assessment procedures according to the required module and in particular the affixing of the CE marking must take place prior to placing on the market.

## ESSENTIAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Compliance with the RCD is provided by meeting all the relevant Essential Safety Requirements (ESR) to the full extent that they are applicable.

There are thirty one ESR which are divided into five sections:

1. Boat Design Categories
2. General Requirements
3. Integrity and Structural Requirements
4. Handling Characteristics
5. Installation Requirements

Some of these requirements will apply to every single recreational craft. Some requirements or combination of requirements will apply to specific boats only.

## CE MARKING



Recreational craft must, when they are placed on the market, bear the CE marking on the builder's plate together with the other information indicated in essential requirement 2.2.

The identification number of the notified body must accompany the CE marking where they intervene during the manufacturing process (Conformity Assessment Modules D, F, G and H).

## HARMONISED STANDARDS

The EN ISO standards are set up to provide the most robust form of compliance. If a harmonised standard is employed then there is an assumption that compliance has been achieved.

A standard is developed by going through a series of stages. There will be a convener who will take charge of the consultation processes and progress for each Directive.

The Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN) provides the vehicle for an ISO Standard to acquire European consensus and thus be adopted as a European Norm through the appointment of Technical Committees. The use of ISO standards is mandatory in only one application, Hull Identification Numbers (HIN). It is not possible to produce a compliant HIN without actually conforming to the standard EN ISO 10087.

## NOTIFIED BODIES

Notified Bodies are organisations approved to carry out verification and certification of qualifying aspects of RCD compliance.

In principle a Notified Body has to be established within the EU but new arrangements under Mutual Recognition Agreements allow regulatory authorities in other selected countries to act as Notified Bodies in their own territories.

## RCD AMENDMENTS

The scope of the RCD has been increased to include, from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005, further environmental considerations.

The major changes are as follows:

- There will be limits imposed on exhaust and sound emissions from internal combustion propulsion engines.
- The scope of the directive will be expanded to cover Personal Water Craft (PWC).
- There will be greater Modular choice for assessment which will allow lower category boats to be voluntarily assessed by Notified Bodies in higher Assessment modules.
- Specific provisions for Post Construction Assessment will mean that there is a mandatory involvement of a Notified Body in Post Construction Assessment regardless of the size of the boat and its design category.

## AVAILABILITY OF THE TEXT OF THE RECREATIONAL CRAFT DIRECTIVE

### GENERAL GUIDES / PUBLICATIONS

“Guide to the Implementation of Directives Bases on New Approach and Global Approach”

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/newapproach/legislation/guide/legislation.html>

Documents produced by CEN (European Committee for Standardisation)

<http://www.cenorm.be/aboutcen/prod&serv/products/publications.html>

“New Approach” directives and related European harmonised standards

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/newapproach/standardization/harmstds/reflist.html>

<http://www.newapproach.org>

A guide to the application of the Recreational Craft Directive titled ‘Recreational Craft Directive and Comments to the Directive Combined’ is available from the European Commission internet pages.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/maritime/>

The Recreational Craft Sectoral Group (RSG) has published their own guidelines for the Directive. A copy of the latest version is available upon registration form the following website.

<http://rsg.balport.com/registration.phtml>

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND USEFUL LINKS

### STANDARDS

Further information on standards and guidance information can be obtained from the following bodies:

### CYS

#### **Cyprus Organisation for the Promotion of Quality**

at the **Ministry for Commerce, Industry and Tourism**

13-15, Andreas Araouzou Street,  
1421 Nicosia

<http://www.cys.mcit.gov.cy>

### CYPRUS COMPETENT AUTHORITY

#### ***Who is enforcement authority for lifts in Cyprus?***

In Cyprus the Government's Department of Shipping is responsible for enforcement of the Recreational Craft regulations; further details on enforcement and penalties are available from the Department of Shipping,

In Cyprus the Ministry of Communication and Works is responsible for enforcement of the RC related regulation; (Further details on enforcement and penalties are available at Cyprus Contact point at the

#### **Ministry of Communication and Works**

Department of Merchant Shipping

#### **Contact:**

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[maritimeadmin@dms.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:maritimeadmin@dms.mcw.gov.cy)

## CYPRUS LEGISLATION

### *How is the Directive on recreational craft implemented in Cyprus?*

General requirements and stipulation are laid down in the Cyprus Framework Law **N. 30(I)/2002** (published 5.4.2002) as amended by Law **N. 29(I)/2003** (published 28.3.2003).

The Framework Law represents the legal basis for the Cyprus Regulations addressing respective Directives.

The Cyprus Regulation addressing the RC directive is **Regulation P.I. 307/2003** (published 18.4.2003).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information and links to all relevant European websites are available at

<http://www.cys.mcit.gov.cy>

under the button named:

**NEW APPROACH**

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