



Department of Transportation
PAMBANSANG PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(National Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
139 25th Street, Port Area,
1018 Manila

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NHQ-PCG
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TO : ALL PCG DISTRICTS, OWNERS/OPERATORS OF PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT/YACHT, OWNERS/OPERATORS OF ALL PORTS AND MARINAS OFFERING SERVICES TO PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT/YACHT, AND ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE INTENSIFIED INSPECTION AND MONITORING OF PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT/YACHT

NOTICE is hereby given to all concerned that the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Memorandum Circulars Number 07-12 entitled "Pre-Departure Inspection" dated 24 August 2012 and 06-12 entitled "Vessel Safety Enforcement Inspection" dated 24 August 2012 are hereby expanded to include the inspection of **PLEASURE YACHTS NOT ENGAGE IN TRADE** within the scope of the implementation of the aforementioned policies.

The inclusion of pleasure yachts not engaged in trade or the so-called private recreational watercraft/yacht is essential to intensify the government's efforts in ensuring the safety and security of all seaports, including marinas for yachts, as well as watercraft traversing Philippine waters. This measure ensures that the movements of all watercraft, including private recreational watercraft/yachts, are effectively monitored, enabling the efficient implementation of maritime policies and the prompt delivery of maritime search and rescue services when necessary.

Essentially, this PCG Advisory aims to implement Republic Act No. 9993 (PCG Law of 2009) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, to wit:

1. **Rule 3 (c):** To detain, stop, or prevent a ship or vessel that does not comply with safety standards, rules, and regulations from sailing or leaving port;



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2. **Rule 3 (e):** To issue and enforce rules and regulations promoting the safety of life and property at sea for all maritime-related activities;
3. **Rule 3 (k):** To assist in the enforcement and maintenance of maritime security, suppression of terrorism at sea, and the performance of law enforcement functions in accordance with pertinent laws, rules, and regulations;
4. **Rule 3 (l):** To assist in enforcing laws related to fisheries, immigration, customs, forestry, firearms and explosives, human trafficking, dangerous drugs and chemicals, transnational crimes, and other applicable laws within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines;
5. **Rule 3 (m):** To board and inspect all type of merchant ships and watercrafts in the performance of its functions; and
6. **Rule 3 (n):** To enforce laws, promulgate, and administer rules and regulations for protecting the marine environment and resources from offshore pollution sources within the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines.

For the purpose of this Advisory, private recreational watercraft/yacht refers to the watercraft/yachts being used by the **owner or his/her guests** for sports and pleasure/recreation purposes, **without any such guest to pay any fee** or any other form of consideration. This definition excludes personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis, water bicycles), kayaks, dinghies, auxiliary boats, and dragon boats.

To enable the implementation of this PCG Advisory, all concerned are hereby directed to refer to the following guidelines, to wit:

1. For the PCG Districts
 - a. Maintain high-level of maritime domain awareness by ensuring that all vessels within their respective area or responsibility are properly monitored and accounted on a daily basis, to include all private recreational watercraft/yachts;
 - b. Include private recreational watercraft/yachts in the conduct of Pre-Departure Inspection and Vessel Safety Enforcement Inspection (with emphasis on the passenger manifest, life-saving appliances, and navigational/communications equipment;
 - c. Conduct maritime patrols and apprehend private recreational watercraft/yachts for leaving port without being subjected to Pre-Departure Inspection; and



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- d. Conduct inspections of all ports and marinas that provide services to private recreational watercraft/yachts, focusing on, but not limited to, the security measures in place for the ports, marinas, and the watercraft/yachts themselves.
2. For the Owners/Operators of Private Recreational Watercraft/Yachts:
- a. Ensure to request a Pre-Departure Inspection from the PCG before each departure;
 - b. Ensure that the private watercraft/yacht has the following valid documents and certificates onboard:
 - i. Certificate of Ownership;
 - ii. Recreational Boat Certificate; and
 - iii. Ship Station License.
 - c. Submit to the PCG the following documents prior to each departure:
 - i. Passenger/crew manifest;
 - ii. If passengers or crew are foreign nationals, validate if they have a valid VISA or equivalent permit from the Bureau of Immigration;
 - iii. Voyage plan; and
 - iv. List of emergency contact information (for SAR services if needed).
 - d. Submit to the PCG the following documents every after arrival at a particular port, marina, or anchorage area:
 - i. PCG Clearance from last port/marina;
 - ii. Notification of deviations made from the earlier submitted voyage plan, if any;
 - iii. Report of ship-to-ship interface during the just concluded voyage, if any.
3. For the Owners/Operators of All Ports and Marinas Offering Services to Private Recreational Watercraft/Yachts:
- a. Submit an updated Port Facility Security Plan (with emphasis on Access Control) to the concerned PCG Station/Sub-Station;
 - b. Ensure that all departing private watercraft/yacht have secured the PCG clearance prior to each departure; and
 - c. Grant access clearance for PCG personnel who will conduct inspections on private recreational watercraft/yacht.

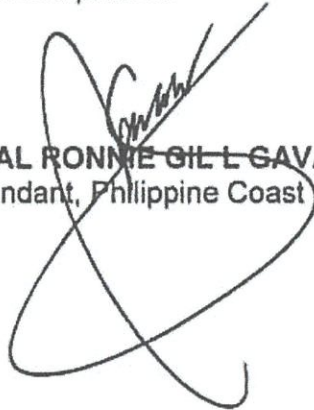


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Further, be advised that if the general impression/observation on board shows clear grounds for believing that the condition of the ship or its equipment does not correspond substantially with the particulars of the certificates, or that the Master or crew is unfamiliar with essential shipboard procedures, a more detailed inspection should be conducted. Therefore, all Masters, owners, and other concerned parties are directed to strictly ensure continued safety and statutory compliance to avoid unnecessary delays or detentions of their private recreational watercraft/yachts.

Philippine Coast Guard enforcement units are hereby directed to implement this Advisory, which will take effect immediately upon approval.

For strict compliance.


ADMIRAL RONNE GIL L. GAVAN PCG
Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard



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