

## Frequently asked questions

### For applicants for registration of recreational ships 15 metres in length and over

#### Why is Maritime Safety Queensland changing this requirement?

Ships over 15 metres present additional risks to marine safety and the marine environment because of their size and their potential to be operated over greater distances and with more passengers on board.

In recent times, a trend has emerged where people are purchasing ex-commercial ships, such as gravel barges, and registering them recreationally thereby avoiding the additional safety requirements of survey and safety equipment that apply to commercial ships.

From 1 July 2006, Maritime Safety Queensland requires that all new applications for recreational ship registration, transfer of recreational ship registration or change of recreational ship particulars for a ship with a length overall of 15 metres and over be referred to Maritime Safety Queensland for consideration of the suitability of the ship for recreational registration, before an application is processed by a Transport and Main Roads customer service centre.

#### What will this achieve?

This will enable Maritime Safety Queensland to identify those ships that may present serious safety and environmental risks because of their build characteristics or state of seaworthiness and act to proactively manage these risks.

#### Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all persons applying for:

- new registration of recreational ships 15 metres and over
- transfer of ownership of recreational ships 15 metres and over
- change of particulars of recreational ships 15 metres and over – this is particularly in respect to persons applying to amend the registration details of an existing registered ship of 15 metres or over to less than 15 metres.

This policy does not generally apply to applications for renewal of registration for recreational ships 15 metres and over. The owners of existing registered recreational ships 15 metres and over will be asked to provide appropriate information direct to Maritime Safety Queensland with their next renewal notice.

#### Who do I send my application to?

Applications should be first sent to your local Maritime Safety Queensland regional office for endorsement before you present in person at a Queensland Transport customer service centre or QGAP office to have your application processed.

You will need to send one of the following completed forms:

- recreational ship registration application form (number F3525)
- recreational ship registration transfer application form (number F3521)
- change of recreational ship particulars notification form (number F3527).

These forms must be sent together with the 'application for new or transfer of ownership or change of particulars of recreational ships 15 metres in length and over form' (number F4367) and a photograph of the ship, to your local Maritime Safety Queensland regional office (see Appendix 2 for locations).

Endorsement by Maritime Safety Queensland does not constitute a processed registration application – this can only be done by a Transport and Main Roads customer service centre or QGAP office.

**Do I need to go into a Maritime Safety Queensland regional office in person?**

No, you need only send your application including the required ship details and a photograph of the ship to a Maritime Safety Queensland regional office (see Appendix 2).

**Does this cost anything extra?**

No, there is no additional charge. There may, however, be costs associated with making your ship seaworthy if a shipping inspector directs you to do so before the ship can be registered.

**Who decides the suitability for recreational registration?**

In the first instance, when completed paperwork is presented to a Maritime Safety Queensland regional office (refer Appendix 2) a Shipping Inspector will be assigned to assess the application. The shipping inspector will recommend to the Manager (Marine Safety) whether endorsement of the application for recreational registration is appropriate. If granted, the application form (number F4367) will be endorsed accordingly.

If the Manager (Marine Safety) does not believe the ship is suitable for registration as a recreational ship, he/she will refer the application, including a statement of grounds for belief, to the Director (Safety Standards) for consideration and recommendation to the General Manager to either refuse the application or grant an authority on conditions.

The Director (Safety Standards) will advise the applicant in writing of the reasons for refusal or conditional granting of the authority.

**What's involved in an assessment?**

In considering whether a ship is suitable for recreational registration, the Shipping Inspector will consider the following:

- whether the ship was designed and built as a recreational ship;
- whether the ship has been modified in a way that makes it suitable to be used as a recreational ship;
- would a person require special skills or expertise (engineering or deck skills) to navigate the ship beyond that possessed by a recreational marine driver licence holder;
- whether the nature, design, characteristics or equipment of the ship are of a commercial nature (that is, non-recreational);
- whether the ship should be required to carry additional safety equipment
- whether the ship is seaworthy to the recreational standard.

**Will all ships 15 metres in length and over be inspected?**

No – new ships and ships that are clearly built for recreational use will generally not be inspected. Maritime Safety Queensland will normally only inspect those ships that are of a commercial build, such as tugs and barges.

### **What are some examples of ships not suitable for recreational registration?**

Please refer to Appendix 1.

### **How long will it take to process my application?**

Most applications will be decided without the need for an inspection of the ship. Routinely Maritime Safety Queensland will endorse and return application forms to applicants within seven working days. However should it be necessary to conduct an inspection of the ship, the timeline for completion may be longer depending on the availability of a shipping inspector.

In all cases however, Maritime Safety Queensland will advise an applicant of their decision within 30 days of receipt of the application.

### **Who do I contact if I have a query or a complaint?**

In the first instance applicants should contact the Maritime Safety Queensland regional office to which they forwarded their application for endorsement.

Refer to Appendix 2 for a list of Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices and contact information.

Where Maritime Safety Queensland declines an application for recreational ship registration, transfer of recreational ship registration or change of recreational ship particulars for a ship with a length overall of greater than 15 metres the applicant should be referred to Safety Standards Branch by email ([msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au](mailto:msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au)) or telephone (07) 3120 7462.

### **What happens if I do not have Maritime Safety Queensland authorisation?**

If you present to a Queensland Transport customer service centre without form number F4367 completed and authorised by a Maritime Safety Queensland shipping inspector, the customer service centre officer will be unable to process your application.

### **Will I need to do this every time I renew my registration?**

No, the requirement to seek Maritime Safety Queensland's endorsement only applies for applications for new registration, transfer of ownership, and change of ship particulars – changing measured length.

### **What does authority mean?**

'Authority' means the recreational registration of a ship.

### **What does length overall mean?**

'Length overall (LOA)' for a ship that has previously been registered commercially, the last assigned commercial registration length. For all other ships it means the distance from the foremost part of the hull to the aftermost part of the full of the boat. This excludes removable parts which can be detached in a non-destructive manner and without affecting the structural reliability of the boat, for example outboard motors, swimming platforms, bowsprits, fittings or attachments.

### **When does this new requirement start?**

This process will take effect from 1 July 2006 for all applications for recreational ships 15 metres for:

- new registration (form number F3525)
- transfer of ownership (form number F3521)
- change of particulars (form number (F3527).

All applications received after 1 July 2006 will be required to complete the 'application for new or transfer of ownership or change of particulars of recreational ships 15 metres in length overall and over form' (number F4367) in addition to the form relevant to the transaction being carried out (as listed above).

## Appendix 1 Inappropriate ships for recreational registration

### EOK Green

The EOK Green is a 53 m hopper barge that was moored in the Mary River. It was already recreationally registered when it came to the attention of Maritime Safety Queensland.

The then owner sold the ship to a Papua New Guinean National who wished to simply transfer the recreational registration and navigate the ship back to Papua New Guinea. Had Maritime Safety Queensland not been aware of the intended sale and proposed subsequent journey, ownership of this ship quite likely would have transferred through a simple process and the ship could have potentially departed under the command of a recreational ship master.



## Karma

The Karma was a 43 m gravel barge which was unregistered, however the owner had endeavoured to register the ship recreationally but was refused because he did not present in person at the Customer Service Centre. The Karma was being operated by a person who held a recreational marine driver licence only at the time the ship grounded at Agnes Water.



## North Head

The North Head is a 68 m ex-Sydney ferry which is registered recreationally. The ship was in very poor condition and had deteriorated to the point where Maritime Safety Queensland had to intercede and act to keep the ship afloat. This ship changed ownership several times making it extremely difficult to hold a single person responsible for complying with directions for the ship. Ownership changed simply through the transfer of recreational registration without any oversight by Maritime Safety Queensland.



## Atlantic Trader 1

The Atlantic Trader is a 65 m roll-on roll-off ship presently being held under a detention order by the New Zealand Maritime Authority. The ship has over 50 uncleared defects and has been moored alongside a wharf in Auckland for over four years.

The New Zealand Maritime Safety Authority contacted Maritime Safety Queensland to advise that the ship had been purchased by an Australian who had indicated that he intended to return the ship to Queensland and register it as a recreational ship. Had the New Zealand Maritime Authority not moved quickly to ensure the ship could not be moved without the defects being cleared, and to advise us of the pending arrival of this ship, it is possible that this ship could have arrived in Queensland and been registered recreationally without Maritime Safety Queensland being aware of its existence.



## Appendix 2 Location of Maritime Safety Queensland Regional Offices

Location	Postal address	Telephone contact
40-44 Sea World Drive Main Beach	PO Box 107 Southport Queensland 4215	07 5539 7300
MacArthur Avenue East Pinkenba	MacArthur Avenue East Pinkenba Queensland 4008	07 3860 3500
Old Pilot Station Parkyn Parade Mooloolaba	PO Box 1094 Mooloolaba Queensland 4557	07 5477 8425
Level 2 Centrepoint Building 136 Goondoon Street Gladstone	PO Box 123 Gladstone Queensland 4680	07 4973 1200
Floor 2 46 Quay Street Bundaberg	PO Box 476 Bundaberg Queensland 4670	07 4131 8500
Buccaneer Avenue Hervey Bay	Buccaneer Avenue Hervey Bay Queensland 4655	07 4194 9600
14 Discovery Lane Mount Pleasant Mackay	PO Box 10085 Mt Pleasant Queensland 4740	07 4944 3700
384 Shute Harbour Road Airlie Beach	PO Box 717 Airlie Beach Queensland 4802	07 4946 2200
60 Ross Street South Townsville	GPO Box 1921 Townsville Queensland 4810	07 4726 3400

64-66 Tingira Street Portsmith	PO Box 1787 Cairns Queensland 4870	07 4052 7400
1 Iraci Avenue Weipa	PO Box 489 Weipa Queensland 4874	07 4069 7165
Lot 75 Yappar Street Karumba	PO Box 224 Karumba Queensland 4891	07 4745 9281
Hastings Street Thursday Island	PO Box 109 Thursday Island Queensland 4875	07 4069 1351