



MARINE CIRCULAR

Marine Circular # MC19-01

Supersedes Previous #

Date: 02nd January 2019

Title: OVERLOADED VESSELS

This is a circular to all marine users which includes: shipping operators, shipping agencies, ship masters of commercial vessels, commercial ship owners, small boat owners and operators, and fishing boat operators and owners in PNG.

Under International and national legislation and in the interest of our PNG Citizens, it is very important that **ALL** vessel operators refrain from over-loading their vessels when proceeding to sea. This is particularly important in the current season where PNG Coastal waters are experiencing strong winds and seas. A weather report should be obtained which covers the area and time of the intended voyage to ensure the weather conditions are suited to the type of vessel being used for the voyage prior to departure.

All vessels must be suitably Certified for the Commercial purpose for which they are intended. Any vessel intended to carry Passengers must be certified to carry those passengers, and the Maximum number of passengers allowed will be stated on the certification, with appropriate Safety Equipment required being listed. It must be noted in the case of carrying Passengers, the total number of passengers that a vessel is certified to be carried, may not reach the maximum draft allowed under the load line rules, but to carry more would also be considered over-loaded.

Most vessels are assigned a load line which should be strictly adhered to and not submerged, which indicates the vessel is over-loaded. For Small Craft an inverted triangle can be found on the newer Banana Boats, which acts as the load line. For those not issued with this triangle, 350mm freeboard should be regarded as the minimum for sailing.

Authorized by:



TREVOR POROURA Afan.

CEO/ General Manager

NATIONAL MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY

Phone: +675 3212969, +675 73517017

Fax: +675 321 0873

Email: PNGMRCC@nmsa.gov.pg