PROCEEDINGS
THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, KERALA MARITIME BOARD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695010
(Present: Shine A Haq)

Sub : KMB- Manning Requirements for Inland Vessels carrying up to 12 Passengers, engaged in water sports/adventure sports ranging up to 1 to 3 Nautical Miles from Baseline, at sea in the State of Kerala – Orders Issued.

Read : Board Order No. HOKMB-TVM/56/2026-E2 dated 12-05-2026.

ORDER No. : HOKMB-TVM/56/2026-E2 Dated. 19-05-2026

The Kerala Maritime Board is the designated authority for the registration of all Mechanised Inland Vessels. The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), vide circular dated 28 September 2004, has stipulated that all such vessels engaged in water sports/adventure activities up to 3 Nautical Miles (NM) must be maintained under a classification society and registered with the State Maritime Board under the Inland Vessels (IV) Act, 2021. This circular states:

> ***"Crafts of less than 2 NT (Net Tonnage) should not be permitted to operate beyond 1 Nautical Mile (NM) from the shore and crafts between 2NT to 15NT may be allowed to operate upto 3 NM. However, these distances are further subject to local weather conditions and decision of the Port Officer, in this respect."***

The circular do not explicit regarding the safe manning requirements for these categories of vessels; hence, it is required to be clarified with existing regulations.

Presently, for vessels engaged in water sports as well as adventure sports, training and certifications are given by the National Institute of Water Sports (NIWS), Goa, also could be trained and certified by the State Maritime Board. The authority for these certifications is authorized under the draft Inland Vessels Special Category (Pleasure and Canal Cruise Rules), 2025, namely for jet ski operations, parasailing, and speed boat maneuvering etc. for inland water limit.

Analyzing DGS Order No. 07 of 2016, dated 30.11.2016, issued by the Directorate General of Shipping, India, it is noted that, for Category 4 vessels, under Operator Requirement (*9.4.1*), a pleasure craft designed for limited operation can be operated up to 1 NM by a person holding an "*approved powerboat certificate*". In this Order, "Pleasure Crafts" are defined as vessels carrying not more than 12 passengers, used strictly for pleasure or recreation purposes and not for the transportation of cargo or passengers. Furthermore, pleasure crafts can be utilized for either personal or commercial use.

Considering the above circumstances, it is adjudged that vessels of 10 metres and below engaged in water/adventure sports up to 1 NM from the baseline, which are registered under the IV category under classification society and operating in fair weather, could be manned by an approved powerboat certificate holder or personnel with a similar competency certificate as prescribed by the rule considering the nature of operation of the vessel; issued by the National Institute of Water Sports or State Maritime Board, as specified under the draft Special Category Pleasure Craft Rules.

It is pertinent to mention that the draft Special Category Pleasure Craft Rules formulate different types of certification requirements for various water sports. It is also clarified that the term "pleasure craft" as defined in the aforementioned DGS order structurally differs from the definition of a "Pleasure Craft" contained within the Special Category rules under the IV framework.

To ensure the safety of life at sea and to standardize enforcement operations, proposals were submitted to establish appropriate manning standards based on vessel length, net tonnage and operating range. The Board, during its detailed deliberations on Agenda Item No. 18, resolved to approve structured manning requirements for inland vessels engaged in water and adventure sports activities.

Accordingly, sanctions and orders are hereby issued enforcing the following operational manning requirements across the State of Kerala:

- ***Category 1 (Vessels 10 metres and below): Vessels with a length of 10 metres and below, carrying up to 12 passengers, and less than 2 NT, permitted to operate within 1 NM from the baseline, shall be manned in accordance with the draft IV Special Category (Pleasure and Canal Cruise Rules), 2025.***

- ***Category 2 (Vessels above 10 metres) : Vessels above 10 metres in length, carrying up to 12 passengers, and less than 2 NT, permitted to operate within 1 NM from the baseline, shall be manned with IV personnel as per the IV Manning Rules, 2025.***

- ***Category 3 (Vessels between 2 NT and 15 NT): Vessels carrying up to 12 passengers, above 2 NT but less than 15 NT, permitted to operate up to 3 NM from the baseline, shall be manned with IV personnel as per the IV Manning Rules, 2025.***

All regulating authorities and enforcement wings are directed to ensure strict adherence to these specified manning metrics during routine inspections and verification drives. Also to ensure that all operation of such vessels are to be carried out during fair weather.

Shine A Haq
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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SHINE A HAQ
Date: 19-05-2026
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To
1. The Registering Authority -KMB
2. All Port Officers, Ports of Registries, Senior Port Conservators, Port Conservators, Surveyors(KMB), Naval Arch. (KMB)

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