



**PAMBANSANG PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(National Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)**

139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila

JUA/OAW/WJ/MW
NHQ-PCG/CG-8
Serial Nr. 1124-__

MEMORANDUM

**To : Commander, Maritime Safety Services Command
All PCG Districts**

From : Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard

**Subj : IMPLEMENTATION OF DOTR DEPARTMENT ORDER 2024-020:
GUIDELINES ON THE INTENSIFIED INSPECTION AND MONITORING
OF PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT/YACHT**

Date : 27 November 2024

1. Reference: Department of Transportation (DOTr) Department Order 2024-020.
2. The above reference pertains to the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Department Order 2024-020, entitled "*Guidelines on the Intensified Inspection and Monitoring of Private Recreational Watercraft/Yacht.*"
3. The Department Order underscores the Department's commitment to enhancing maritime safety and security by mandating the implementation of stringent safety standards, operational protocols, and compliance measures for private recreational watercraft/yachts. These guidelines ensure that all private vessels operate within the framework of established maritime laws.
4. ***In view of this directive, all District Commanders are hereby directed to fully implement the provisions of the Department Order*** and work closely with local government units (LGUs), stakeholders, port authorities, and other relevant agencies to ensure coordinated efforts in the implementation of this Order. The success of this initiative relies on the collective effort and dedication of all involved to maintain and uphold the safety and security of our maritime domain.
5. For information and strict compliance.

FOR THE COMMANDANT, PCG:


JOMARK U. ANGUE
CAPT PCG
*Deputy Chief of Coast Guard Staff
for Maritime Safety Services, CG-8*





Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 2024- 020

TO : PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, OWNERS/OPERATORS OF PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT AND YACHTS, OWNERS/OPERATORS OF ALL PORTS AND MARINAS OFFERING SERVICES TO PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT AND YACHTS, AND ALL CONCERNED

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

DATE : NOV 13 2024

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 292, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), formerly the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), is the primary policy, planning, programming, coordinating, implementing, regulating, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch in the promotion, development and regulation of safe, efficient and reliable transportation services, and is mandated to administer and enforce all laws, rules and regulations in the field of transportation;

WHEREAS, the DOTr is empowered to call upon any agency, corporation, or organization, whether public or private, whose development programs include transportation as integral parts thereof, to participate and assist in the preparation and implementation of comprehensive and integrated programs for transportation;

WHEREAS, the increasing number of private recreational watercraft and yachts in the Philippines has led to several incidents, particularly in the maritime sector, raising concerns about the government's ability to board and inspect these vessels;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provision of Republic Act No. 9993 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has the authority to enforce maritime laws, ensuring safety, security, and environmental protection over all vessels in the Philippine waters, to wit:

1. **Rule 3 (c):** The authority to detain or prevent vessels that do not comply with safety regulations from sailing;
2. **Rule 3 (e):** The authority to issue and enforce rules promoting the safety of maritime activities particularly Rule (e) 1 (h) on the operation of pleasure and recreational watercrafts and activities;

3. **Rule 3 (k):** The authority to enforce maritime security and suppress terrorism at sea;
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):** The authority to board and inspect all types of vessels for law enforcement purposes; 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.

WHEREAS, safe manning and competency of the crew of private recreational watercraft and yachts (other than those registered for commercial use), were not regulated as existing policies of the PCG and Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) are focused on the ships engaged in commercial use.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JAIME J. BAUTISTA, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, by virtue of powers vested in me by law, hereby order the following:

- I. **INCLUDE THE PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT AND YACHTS IN THE COVERAGE OF PRE-DEPARTURE INSPECTION (PDI) AND VESSEL SAFETY ENFORCEMENT INSPECTION (VSEI)**
 1. The 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 is hereby expanded to include the inspection of **PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT AND YACHTS NOT ENGAGE IN TRADE** within the scope of the implementation of the aforementioned policies.
 2. Private recreational watercraft and 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.
 3. The PCG shall perform the following functions:
 - 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
 - d. Create a policy for the institutionalization of safe manning and competency requirements for the crew of private recreational watercraft and yachts.
4. Ensure that inspection protocols respect constitutional rights by balancing the need for public safety and security with the protection of individual rights. Engage with relevant stakeholders, such as recreational vessel owners and marina operators, to address any potential concerns and encourage compliance with the new guidelines.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS/OPERATORS OF PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT AND YACHTS

1. Ensure to request a Pre-Departure Inspection from the PCG before each departure;
2. Ensure that the private watercraft/yacht has the following valid documents and certificates onboard:
 - a. Certificate of Ownership;
 - b. Recreational Boat Certificate; and
 - c. Ship Station License.
3. Submit to the PCG the following documents prior to each departure:
 - a. Passenger/crew manifest;
 - b. If passengers or crew are foreign nationals, validate if they have a valid VISA or equivalent permit from the Bureau of Immigration;
 - c. Voyage plan; and
 - d. List of emergency contact information (for Search and Rescue services if needed).
4. Submit to the PCG the following documents every after arrival at a particular port, marina, or anchorage area:
 - a. PCG Clearance from last port/marina;
 - b. Notification of deviations made from the earlier submitted voyage plan, if any; and
 - c. Report of ship-to-ship interface during the just concluded voyage, if any.

III. INTENSIFY SECURITY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN ALL PORTS AND MARINAS OFFERING SERVICES TO PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT AND YACHTS

1. PCG shall conduct inspections of all ports and marinas, focusing on, but not limited to, the security measures in place for the ports, marinas, and the watercraft/yachts themselves.
2. The PCG shall periodically test the maritime security measures implemented by all ports and marinas and evaluate their efficiency in addressing threats through tabletop and actual security exercises.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS/OPERATORS OF ALL PORTS AND MARINAS OFFERING SERVICES TO PRIVATE RECREATIONAL WATERCRAFT AND YACHTS

1. Submit an updated Port Facility Security Plan (with emphasis on Access Control) to the concerned PCG Station/Sub-Station;
2. Ensure that all departing private watercraft and yachts have secured the PCG clearance prior to each departure; and
3. Grant access clearance for PCG personnel who will conduct inspections on private recreational watercraft and yachts.

V. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any part or provision of this Order is held unconstitutional or invalid by the court of competent jurisdiction, other parts or provisions which are not affected shall continue to remain in full force and effect.

VI. REPEALING CLAUSE

All other Department Orders, Circulars, Special Orders, Office Orders and/or other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded and/or modified accordingly.

VII. EFFECTIVITY

This Department Order shall take effect immediately, following the completion of its publication either in the official Gazette or in the newspaper of General Circulation.


JAIME J. BAUTISTA
Secretary

