

Workboat Operational Procedures

National legislation requires workboats which operate commercially “at sea”, outside category C and D waters, to be certified to comply with defined codes of practice. Where workboats are not subject to regulations the harbour authority will establish their own procedures.

The PMSC states that harbour authorities should ensure that workboats used in their harbours are “fit for purpose” for any use to which they are put. In order to carry out certain maintenance activities the Trustees presently operate a 5.5m ‘Pioner Multi’ boat with a 60hp outboard motor.

This is constructed to DNV standards and is designed to meet CE category C inshore criteria (voyages in coastal waters, large bays, estuaries, lakes and rivers where conditions up to, and including, wind force 6 and significant wave heights up to, and including, 2 m may be experienced).

GHT have adopted the following procedures and inspection regime to establish “fitness for purpose” of the non-certified workboat operated by the Trustees.

I Inspection criteria to ensure that the workboat is “fit for purpose”

I.1 Construction and Structural Strength

The boat shall be produced in accordance with CE recreational craft directive (RCD) regulations for the proposed area of operation.

I.2 Watertight integrity

All watertight openings are to be inspected regularly to ensure watertight integrity is maintained.

I.3 Water freeing arrangements

All freeing ports to be kept clear

I.4 Machinery

Evidence of regular servicing is to be maintained
A maintenance log book is to be kept (see checklist)

I.5 Electrical arrangements

Where battery systems are in use there are to be adequate securing, ventilation and isolating arrangements

I.6 Steering, rudder and propeller systems

It shall be necessary to establish that the steering arrangements are adequate for safe operation of the vessel and that an emergency means of control is available

1.7 Bilge pumping

A manual bilge pump or efficient means of bailing shall be provided

1.8 Life saving appliances

The boat shall carry:

- 1 buoyant line
- 100% lifejackets (minimum 275N for each person)
- 1 means to recover persons
- 2 lifebuoys
- 6 red hand flares

1.9 Fire appliances

The boat shall carry:

- 1 bucket with lanyard
- 2 multi-purpose fire extinguishers to BS EN 3:1996

1.10 Radio equipment

The boat shall carry a fixed marine VHF installation and radar reflector

1.11 Navigation lights and sound signals

The boat shall carry lights and sound appliances in accordance with the requirements of S.I. 1996 No. 75 the Merchant Shipping (Distress Signals and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations 1996

1.12 Navigational equipment

The boat shall carry navigational equipment as determined by risk assessment. When operating at night or in reduced visibility a magnetic compass shall be fitted.

1.13 Anchors and cables

The boat shall carry an anchor of sufficient mass for the size of the vessel and sufficient cable for the area of operation

1.14 Protection of personnel

All guard rails and handgrips are to be secure and free of grease
All working surfaces are to be non-slip

1.15 Fuel storage

Fuel shall only be stored in approved containers
Fuel containers shall be securely fastened and located in adequately ventilated areas

2 Workboat Check List (to be completed at end of use)

Date:	Time of launch:	Time of recovery:
	Place of launch:	Place of recovery:
Purpose of use:		
Number of persons:		
	Yes/No	Observations
Fuel tanks full		
Engine oil checked		
Engine flushed		
Bilge pump checked		
Battery isolator OFF		
Boat washed down		
Trailer washed down		
Battery charger connected		
Check drain plugs		
Safety equipment present		
Fire extinguishers		
Anchor and cable		
Lifebuoy		
Paddles		
Heaving line		
Lifejackets		