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Recreational navigation:

National legal acts governing navigation of recreational craft

National legal acts governing navigation of recreational craft*

Note by the secretariat

I. Mandate

1. This document is submitted in line with cluster 5: Inland Waterway Transport, paragraph 5.2 of the programme of work 2014–2015 (ECE/TRANS/2014/23) adopted by the Inland Transport Committee on 27 February 2014.
2. At its thirty-seventh session, the Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation (SC.3/WP.3) asked the secretariat to collect information on the national rules governing access to inland waterways by recreational craft and where these acts could be found (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/74, para. 11). Following a request circulated to member Governments, the secretariat issued a list of legal acts governing navigation of recreational craft in the ECE region (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/WP.3/2011/17, paras. 5–19).
3. The secretariat reproduces below updated information on national rules governing access to inland waterways by recreational craft in the ECE region. The last version of this information was presented at the fifty-seventh session of the Working Party on Inland Water Transport (ECE/TRANS/SC.3/2013/10). The Working Party may wish to consider this document and invite Governments which have not yet done so to submit this information to the secretariat by 12 November 2014.

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

II. National legal acts governing navigation of recreational craft on national waterways of the UNECE member States

A. Belgium

4. Since 1 May 2014, there are some changes concerning the registration of recreational craft:

- Registration remains mandatory for small pleasure craft (length inferior to 20m);
- Registration is mandatory after a transitional period of two years for small craft other than recreational craft;
- The license plate is replaced by a registration document;
- Vessels in possession of a license plate remain in conformity with the rules as long as their proprietary does not change.

B. Czech Republic

5. The amendment to the National Act No. 114/1995 Coll. has been approved. The amendments to the related codes of practice are prepared. Entry into force is expected on 01/01/2015.

C. Germany

6. Under German law, navigation of recreational craft is governed by the following legal acts:

- Regulation on the aptitude and qualification for the operation of recreational craft on maritime waterways (Sportbootführerscheinverordnung-See)
- Regulation on the operation of recreational craft on inland water-ways (Sportbootführerscheinverordnung-Binnen)
- Regulation of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure introducing the Lake Constance Shipping Regulations (Verordnung des Ministeriums für Verkehr und Infrastruktur zur Einführung der Bodensee-Schiffahrts-Ordnung – legislative act of the German state of Baden-Württemberg)
- Regulation on the acquisition of maritime skipper certificates and on the manning of traditional ships (Sportseeschifferscheinverordnung)
- 10th Regulation on the Product Safety Act / Ordinance on the provision of recreational craft and on recreational craft traffic (Zehnte Verordnung zum Produktsicherheitsgesetz / Verordnung über die Bereitstellung von Sportbooten und den Verkehr mit Sportbooten – transposition of Directive 94/25/EC, since replaced by Directive 2013/53/EU, competence of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy)
- Regulation on the marking of small craft operating on inland waterways (Verordnung über die Kennzeichnung von auf Binnenschiffahrts-straßen verkehrenden Kleinfahrzeugen – applicable to German small craft)

- Regulation on the placing in service of recreational boats and water motor bikes as well as their rental and their use for commercial purposes in the coastal area (Seesportbootverordnung)
- Regulation on the commercial rental of recreational craft as well as their use on inland waterways (Binnenschiffahrt-Sportbootvermietungsverordnung)

D. Poland

7. Recreational navigation on Polish inland waterways is regulated by the following legal acts:

- Relevant rules are set out in Act of Inland Navigation Law on 20 December 2001.

According to article 37a paragraph 6, a national of another country who has obtained in his country the qualifications for the navigation of recreational craft can navigate on Polish waterways in the limits of his qualifications mentioned in the relevant document.

The detailed regulations are as follows:

- Order of the Minister of Transport, Construction and Maritime Economy on 21 June 2013 on registration of recreational craft;
 - Order of the Minister of Transport, Construction and Maritime Economy on 8 November 2013 on safety of recreational navigation;
 - Order of the Minister of Transport, Construction and Maritime Economy on 10 May 2013 on training of safety on waters;
 - Order of the Minister of Sport and Tourism on 9 April 2013 on navigation of recreational craft.
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