



**PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS**  
**(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)**  
 139 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Port Area  
 1018 Manila

16 April 2014

HPCG/CG-8

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**  
**NUMBER .....04-14**

**GUIDELINES ON CONDUCTING MARINE PARADES, REGATTAS AND**  
**OTHER MARITIME RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROMOTION**  
**OF SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA**

**I. AUTHORITY:**

- A. Republic Act 9993(The Philippine Coast Guard Law of 2009)
- B. Rule 3 (e) 1.g and 1.h of the Implementing Rules and Regulations Of R.A. 9993

**II. REFERENCES:**

- A. Chapter III of SOLAS 1974, as amended
- B. Philippine Merchant Marine Rules and Regulations, 1997

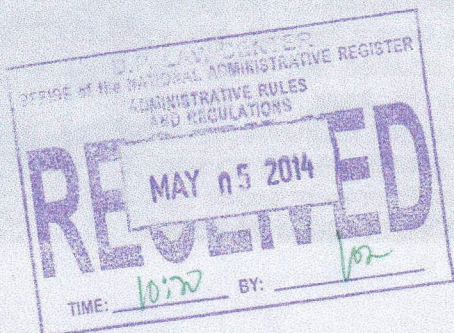
**III. PURPOSE:**

The Circular prescribes the guidelines and procedures to provide effective control over regattas, marine parades and other maritime related activities conducted on the navigable waters of the Philippines so as to insure safety of life and property at sea.

**IV. SCOPE:**

This Memorandum Circular shall apply to registered owners/operators of watercrafts and event organizers of various maritime-related activities utilizing different recreational watercrafts such as but not limited to:

- A. Marine Parade;
- B. Yacht/Sailboat Racing;
- C. Regatta;
- D. Personal Watercraft (PWC) Racing;
- E. Kayak/Dragon Boat Racing;
- F. Motor/Paddled Boat Races;
- G. Fluvial Parades;



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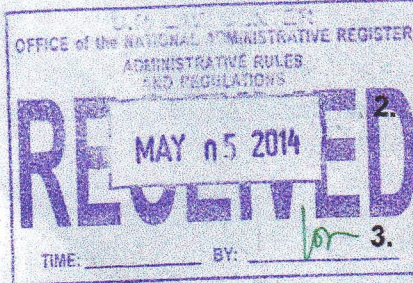
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- H. Fireworks Display Onboard Watercraft; and
- I. Other marine-related activities.

V. **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

- A. **Designated Activity Areas** – refers to the location at navigable waters identified by the PCG specifically for the maritime-related activities/ event.
- B. **Designated Spectator Areas** – an area identified by the PCG where the spectators and/or spectator crafts should station or pre-positioned.
- C. **Event Organizers/Sponsoring Organization** - refers to an individual or group of entities who spearheads in organizing the event or competitions and regattas.
- D. **Fireworks Display** - is a display of the effects produced by firework devices emitted onboard a watercraft as a platform near the shoreline where the spectators are watching. Fireworks are a class of *explosive pyrotechnic* devices used for aesthetic and entertainment purposes. A fireworks display is an activity considered as other marine event.
- E. **Fluvial Parade** – a boat parade along the river or seashore, usually with a patron statue on some boat. Basically a religious activity.
- F. **Marine Parade** – a series of boat parades along the river or seashore involving a rowed or sailed watercrafts or power-driven boats.
- G. **Motor Boat** - refers to any of various relatively small power-driven vessels used for pleasure cruises or racing other than as Pleasure Yacht and PWC (i.e. Rubber boat, Motor Banca, etc.).
- H. **Navigable Waters** - means the waters of the Philippines including territorial sea and inland waters which are presently, or be in the future susceptible for use by watercraft.
- I. Other marine-related activities – activities which were not covered under Para IV but will affect the safety of life at sea (e.g. triathlon and reality shows)
- J. **Owner/Operator** – refers to an individual or company that operates the business involving recreational watercrafts.
- K. **Pleasure Yacht** – means any yacht not on charter or carrying passengers for hire, not engaged in trade or commerce, and being used solely for voyages/excursions for the pleasure or recreational purposes of her owner. More specifically, to be considered a pleasure yacht, the yacht is:

1. in the case of a yacht owned by a corporate entity, one on which the persons on the yacht are employees, officers or shareholders (including beneficial owners) of the corporate entity, or the immediate family or friends; or
2. in the case of a trust or other ownership arrangement, one on which the persons on board the yacht are beneficiaries under the trust or beneficial owners of the ownership arrangement, or their immediate family or friends; or
3. one on which persons other than those referenced in (a) or (b) above are specifically authorized by the owner to use the yacht for specified periods of time; and



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4. in private use;

- L. **Private use** - means that the yacht is used on a private voyage or excursion, and during such use is not engaged in trade by transporting merchandise, or carrying passengers for reward or remuneration (other than as a contribution to the actual cost of the yacht or its operation for the period of the voyage or excursion) or gain, and is not offered for commercial charter operations or public use.
- M. **Personal Watercraft (PWC)** - a type of motorboat powered by jet pumps, not propellers, which is specifically designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than inside the vessel (i.e. Jet ski).
- N. **Regatta** - is a series of boat races involving a rowed or sailed watercraft or powerboat.
- O. **Recreational Watercraft** - any vessel designed specifically and only for movement on the surface of the water. This includes but not limited to pleasure yacht, sailboat, PWC, kayak boat, dragon boat, motor/paddled banca, etc.
- P. **Sailboat** - is a vessel that is powered by the wind; often having several masts and sail.
- Q. **Spectator Craft** - vessels not registered with the event organizer as participants or not part of the regatta patrol wherein used by spectators during the event.
- R. **Underway** - refers to a boat when not in anchor or made fast to the shore.

VI. PROCEDURES

- A. An individual or organization planning to hold a maritime-related activities which, by its nature, circumstances or location, will introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life on the navigable waters of the Philippines, shall submit an application to the Coast Guard District/Station having cognizance of the area where it is intended to hold or the starting point of such regatta or marine parade. Examples of conditions which are deemed to introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life include but are not limited to: An inherently hazardous competition, the customary presence of commercial or pleasure craft in the area, any obstruction of navigable waters which may reasonably be expected to result, the expected accumulation of spectator craft and threat to marine environment (e.g. marine protected areas).
- B. The application must be submitted no less than 10 working days before the start of the proposed maritime-related activities. The application must provide sufficient information that the event will be organized and planned to be held without undue risk (Annex A).
- C. An application shall cover only one specific maritime-related activity. However, for maritime related activities with more than one week interval, a separate permit shall be applied by the applicant or event organizer.
- D. In addition to the above requirements, an individual or organization planning to hold a marine parade, regatta or other maritime-related activities shall likewise obtain a clearance of no-objection from the

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Local Government Unit (LGU) having cognizance of the area where it is intended to hold or the starting point of such marine event.

E. The event organizer can hold an event only after the issuance of permit from the Coast Guard District/Station Commander. The Coast Guard takes action on permit applications by:

1. Approving the application and issuing a permit;
2. Disapproving the application and advising the event organizer of the reason(s) for denial;
3. Returning the application without action, advising the event organizer of the reason(s) a permit is not required; or
4. Returning the application for specific additional information or changes.

F. The Coast Guard District/Station Commander, after approving the plans for the holding of a marine parade, regatta or other marine event within his or her district, is authorized to promulgate special local regulations as he or she deems necessary to ensure safety of life on the navigable waters immediately prior to, during, and immediately after the approved marine event. Such regulations may include a restriction upon, or control of, the movement of vessels through a specified area immediately prior to, during, and immediately after the marine parade, regatta or other marine event.

G. The Coast Guard District/Station Commander shall give the public full and adequate notice of the dates of the marine parade, regatta or other marine event, together with full and complete information of the special local regulations, if there be such. Such notice should be published in the Notices to Mariners if necessary.

H. The marine event shall be subjected to environmental review and assessment and must be consistent with the national law, rules and regulations for the protection of marine environment and resources.

I. In the event of gross safety violation/transgression of safety procedures, the Coast Guard District/Station Commander can stop or delay the marine event for the safety and security of all participating water craft and crews.

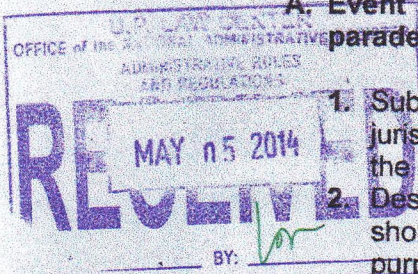
## VII. FEES

Permit fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) will be collected in every maritime related activity.

## VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. **Event organizers/Sponsoring organization of various marine parade, regatta or other marine event shall:**

1. Submit an application to the Coast Guard District/Station having jurisdiction over the area where to hold or the starting point of the regatta, marine parade or other marine event;
2. Designate at least one (1) medical team on standby at the shoreline during the duration of the activity for emergency purposes. When necessary, the medical team may also board/in



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- a separate vessel as practicable during the event with the approval of PCG.
3. Ensure all crew and passengers of open deck water crafts to wear life vests or have said life vests accessible to every person at all times while underway.
  4. Monitor all participating boats during the parade and report immediately to the PCG Station/Detachment in case of any untoward incident.
  5. Ensure passengers of every participating boat must not exceed its maximum carrying capacity.
  6. Ensure the abovementioned activities must be undertaken only at the designated areas duly approved by the PCG.
  7. Report boating accident/s to the PCG in compliance to HPCG Memorandum 06-90 (Marine Protest) within 24 hours; and
  8. Ensure that no passenger/s onboard is/are under the influence of liquor and illegal drugs during the event.

**B. Applicants for the installation of floating billboards shall:**

1. Submit an application to the Coast Guard District/Station having jurisdiction over the area where to install the floating billboards; and
2. If approved, conduct continuous monitoring of the installed billboards and be ready at all times to secure or remove the platform during adverse weather condition or upon advice from the PCG.

**VIII. FINES AND PENALTIES**

- A. An individual or organization holding marine parade, regatta or other marine event without permit from the PCG.**

First Offense	Fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20, 000.00) plus warning
Second Offense	Banned to plan/hold marine parade, regatta or other marine event for one (1) year plus fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00)
Third offense	Banned to plan/hold marine parade, regatta or other marine event for three (3) years and fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100, 000.00)

- B. The owner/operator/boat captain of a watercraft willfully and deliberately joining the marine parade, regatta or other marine event which was not allowed by the PCG.**

First Offense	Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5, 000.00) plus warning
Second Offense	Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10, 000.00) plus 3 months suspension from the operation of watercraft
Third offense	Fine of Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30, 000.00) plus 6 months suspension from the operation of watercraft

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C. An individual or organization and owner/operator/boat captain of a watercraft is equally liable if passengers and crews are not wearing lifejackets in open-deck boats.

First Offense	Fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5, 000.00) for every offense plus warning
Second Offense	Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10, 000.00) for every offense plus 3 months suspension from the operation of watercraft
Third offense	Fine of Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30, 000.00) for every offense plus 6 months suspension from the operation of watercraft

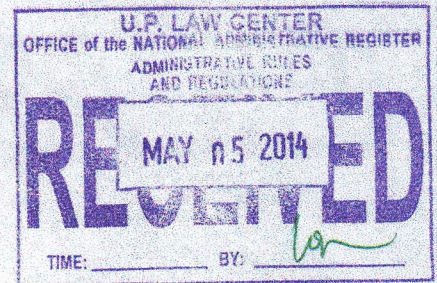
D. An individual or organization and owner/operator/boat captain of a watercraft is equally liable for the violations of its passengers/crew under the Influence of Liquor and illegal drugs.

First Offense	Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10, 000.00) plus warning
Second Offense	Banned to plan/hold and join the marine parade, regatta or other marine event for six (6) months plus fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20, 000.00)
Third Offense and succeeding offenses	Banned to plan/hold and join marine parade, regatta or other marine event for one (1) year plus fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00)

**IX. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE**

This Circular shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in the newspaper of National Circulation in the Philippines.

*[Signature]*  
**RODOLFO D ISORENA**  
 VADM PCG  
 Commandant, PCG



Approved by:

*[Signature]*  
**HON. JOSEPH EMILIO AGUINALDO ABAYA**  
 Secretary, DOTC

**Annexes:**

- a) Application Form
- b) Permit to Conduct Marine Parades and Regatta



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Published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and UP Law Center on 02 May 2014  
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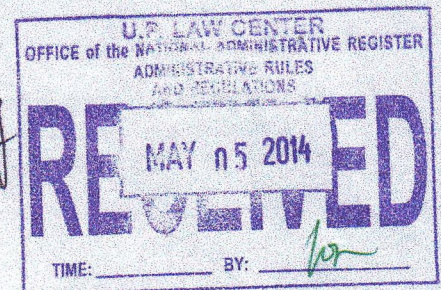
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