



Volunteer Marine Rescue Brisbane Inc

Providing a Safer Marine Environment for Our Community

95 Allpass Parade, Shorncliffe Qld 4027

PO Box 202, Sandgate Qld 4027

t: 07 3269 8888 f: 07 3269 2245

e: management@vmrsandgate.net.au w: vmbrisbane.com.au

VMRAQ Code of Practice for Sandgate 2

1.0 Introduction

The following details the operating standards for VMRAQ (MRQ) Rescue Vessels. These standards incorporate the requirements as detailed under the Queensland Marine Safety Act and Regulations as well as the policy of VMRAQ concerning the operation of vessels. These standards apply to all vessels operated by VMRAQ affiliated units and all personnel who are involved in, and responsible for, the operation of these vessels.

It is the responsibility of all personnel who are involved in the operation of vessels for VMR purposes to be conversant with the details specified in these standards as well as any of VMR Brisbane's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) that relate to the operation of such vessels.

2.0 References

The Queensland Marine Safety Act and Regulations.
VMRAQ Code of Practice – Minimum Standards for operating accredited rescue vessels.
VMR Brisbane Standard Operating Procedures.

3.0 Detailed Information

3.1 Registration

- a) All VMRAQ rescue vessels must now be registered as commercial vessels and are issued with A4 size Registration Certificates that detail the conditions under which the vessel may be operated.
- b) Sandgate 2 is registered as Class 2C.

3.2 Certificate

The current registration certificate **MUST** be kept and displayed on the vessel Sandgate 2 and the following shall apply:

- a) The Secretary shall hold the original Certificate and file same in the folder relating to the vessel Sandgate 2.
- b) A copy shall be made and laminated and displayed in the Operations (Radio) Room.
- c) A second copy shall be made, laminated, and stored on the vessel in a secure place. On Sandgate 2 the Certificate does not need to be displayed but must be available if requested.

3.3 Registration Numbers

The designated Registration Numbers must be clearly displayed in accordance with Queensland Transport requirements.

3.4 Carriage of Persons

- a) The maximum number of persons that Sandgate 2 is registered to carry is eight (4) and must **NOT** be exceeded except in the following circumstances.
- b) In effecting a search and rescue operation, the maximum number of persons carried may be exceeded. However, the safety of the crew and any other persons remains the responsibility/liability of the Master of the vessel.



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NOTE: The actual number of persons/crew may be further limited by the restrictions imposed by the amount and/or type of safety equipment carried. eg Number of coastal life jackets.

3.5 Carriage of Other Persons

In other than a search and rescue situation, where Sandgate 2 is requested to carry other persons, the following criteria **MUST** be met.

- a) Only senior personnel, appropriately qualified, may man the vessel.
- b) Provide a briefing on Safety Procedures and the use of the safety equipment.
- c) Crossing of Coastal bars, or venturing out into Moreton Bay, in other than calm conditions, must be avoided.
- d) Notwithstanding, the Marine Safety Regulations and any limitations must **NOT** be exceeded.

3.6 Area of Operations

Sandgate 2 is limited in her area of operations by virtue of her designated registration. (ie Class 2C).

Sandgate 2 must **NOT** be operated outside the designated area (ie 15 NM to sea), except in the following circumstances:

- a) In effecting a search and rescue operation, the 50 nautical miles to seaward may be exceeded on the condition that the Master of the vessel and the Unit controller agree.
- b) Both parties **MUST** agree. Notwithstanding, the safety of the crew and any other Persons, remains the responsibility/liability of the Master of the vessel.

3.7 Crewing

- a) Sandgate 2 may only be mastered by personnel who hold the required Certificates of Competency as issued by VMRAQ in line with the Department of Emergency Services education and training curriculum. This certification is approved by Queensland Transport as the qualification required to operate VMRAQ rescue vessels under the provisions of the Marine Safety Act and Regulations.
- b) The limitations as may be set out on these Certificates must **NOT** be exceeded under any circumstances.

NOTE: A VMRAQ Certificate of Competency does not provide certification for the operation of vessels for purposes other than VMR activities.

- c) When VMR Brisbane members are being trained as Masters at a formerly recognised training activity, the following requirements apply:
 - Sandgate 2 may be operated by VMR Brisbane members who are undergoing training and do not hold appropriate Certificates of Competency, provided the vessel is under the direct supervision of a currently qualified Master.
 - The limitations contained upon the qualified Master's Certificate of Competency must **NOT** be exceeded.



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Exception - Sandgate 2 may be mastered by a person who holds, as a minimum, a Recreational Ship Masters Licence, only in the following circumstances:

- All avenues have been exhausted to obtain a suitably qualified Master.
- The task **MUST** be a life threatening situation.
- The person **MUST** agree to undertake the task.
- The person **MUST** be briefed and/or fully conversant with his responsibilities under the Marine Safety Act and Regulations
- The respective district police SARMC (water police) is advised of the situation.

d) The minimum crew for Sandgate 2 while engaged in operational activities shall be two (2).

3.8 Obligations of the Master

Under the Marine Safety Act and Regulations, to ensure the safety of the vessel and crew, the Master of Sandgate 2 has the following obligations:

To operate the vessel in a safe and seaworthy manner. This involves, but is not limited to:

- a)** All necessary safety equipment is serviceable and on board the vessel.
- b)** The vessel is appropriately crewed. (This may involve ensuring that there are sufficient crew and that all crew are appropriately trained and briefed to perform the allocated tasks in a safe manner).
- c)** The vessel is capable of safely undertaking the task allocated. (This may involve ensuring that Sandgate 2 is capable of operating within the limitations and within the conditions of the vessels registration and/or conditions).
- d)** The vessel is operated and navigated in a safe manner. (This may involve ensuring that Sandgate 2 is operated according to the International Regulations for Prevention of Collision at Sea and any restrictions and conditions as detailed in the Marine Safety Regulations).
- e)** Where more than one person on board holds a Masters qualification. (Ensure that only **ONE** person **MUST** be designated as the ship's master and that person only, is in charge of the vessel and is responsible for its safe operation).

To maintain the vessel's records as detailed in the Marine Safety regulations.

- f)** Sandgate 2's Vessel Operations Log as detailed in SOP **VES010**.
- g)** Maintenance and Inspection Record (Entries into these sections shall be done by Management and/or the Equipment Officer).
- h)** The above records **a) and b)** **MUST** be maintained. The records **MUST** be complete, accurate, and up to date and kept for a period of (5) five years. No record is to be defaced, obliterated or erased by any person.

NOTE: The Marine Safety Act and Regulations impose severe penalties for persons in charge of vessels and/or the owner of such vessels who breach the conditions of this legislation.



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Summary

Regulations and conditions, although many and varied, are put into place for our own protection and it is in our best interests to adhere to them to the best of our ability in order avoid possible litigation in the event of a mishap.

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