

## Power Hire Boat Licensing - Frequently Asked Questions

**Question:** We have 2 companies that “share” boats for hire, who is judged to be the “Operator”?

**Answer:** In this case 2 possible options can apply. The first is that both companies can apply for a permit as an Operator, the second is that a legal agreement can be drawn up between the companies nominating the Operator in a given set of circumstances.

**Question:** I have 2 boats for hire to customers renting cottages when requested, do I have to have them both tested for stability if they are standard production motor cruisers and they have the Boat Safety Scheme certificates?

**Answer:** Yes. The license pack that you received contains full details of the procedures to be applied. The Notes for Guidance provide easy to read amplification where it is felt necessary. However, if the two boats are configured in the same way and the same type of boat it may be possible to complete just one stability test which could cover both vessels.

**Question:** When do I have to have my hire boat licensed from?

**Answer:** You must have a hire boat license from the date that you intend to be hiring out vessels.

**Question:** The powered day-boat that I hire to the public is less than 7 metres in length. Does it need to a stability and load test?

**Answer:** Yes. A boat less than 7 metres requires a full stability and load test.

**Question:** What passenger loading figure should I apply after having completed a simplified load and stability test?

**Answer:** The loading figure in kilograms that the test will reveal should be divided by what 98kg which is the allowance for each person. For example if the loading and stability test limit is shown to be 515 kilograms, the boat will be able to carry a maximum of 5.26 people or for practical purposes 5 people plus the remainder in luggage.

**Question:** How can I get copies of the application pack for a powered hire boat operators license and/or a hire boat license?

**Answer:** By contacting the Broads Authority Tolls Office through 01603 610734 or by visiting the Broads Authority website and making a request of the Tolls office through <http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/contact>

**Question:** I don't understand the requirements for Hire Boat Licensing and in particular what I have to do to complete the load and stability checks. What must I do now?

**Answer:** All known hire boat operators were sent a letter about the introduction of hire boat licensing. Notes for guidance and copies of applicable conditions were included with the letter to help the reader. Whilst it is acknowledged that the requirements may be daunting, technical elements of, for example, loading and stability testing will be understood by marine surveyors, marine engineers and persons trained in these matters from some of the larger boatyards. They should be approached to undertake the testing and provide the necessary report for you. For further guidance and help in what level of test may be required you may wish to contact the Broads Authority Safety Team through 01603 610734.