



NMSC Media Release

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Transport Council approves latest amendment to Shipping Code

The Australian Transport Council (ATC) has approved Amendment List 8 to the existing Uniform Shipping Laws (USL) Code, making way for the national application of legislation for four new commercial vessel safety standards in Australia.

Set to take effect on 1 October 2010, the amendment will mean the design and construction requirements of the **National Standard for Commercial Vessels (NSCV) C6B – Buoyancy and Stability after Flooding** will replace the equivalent requirements in the USL Code from October¹.

However, the other standards covered by the amendment, **NSCV F2 – Leisurecraft** ('Hire and Drive'), **NSCV C1 – Accommodation, Arrangements and Personal Safety** and **NSCV C2 – Watertight and Weathertight Integrity** are still being finalised and will come into effect six months after their gazettal.

The National Marine Safety Committee (NMSC) develops and publishes the new national commercial vessel standards and NMSC's CEO Margie O'Tarpey is pleased with the introduction of 12 standards into national legislation in the past three years. The latest set will take that number to 16.

"This last raft of standards completes the review of the USL Code and is the culmination of years of contribution by industry and government experts to the NMSC process," Ms O'Tarpey said.

"It is particularly rewarding to have the buoyancy and stability standard join the other two stability standards to complete the trio in this important aspect of vessel design," she said.

Terry Hewitt, Engineering Manager with the M.G Kailis Group is a member of the buoyancy and stability standard's reference group. With over 38 years in the marine and fishing industry, he is well-placed to appreciate the final approval and application of NSCV C6B.

"I've been involved with NMSC and the other stakeholders in the development of the Amendment 8 and we put in many hours to ensure a thorough decision-making process," Mr Hewitt said. "This is a major step forward for the marine industry for the better – and for the long term".

Find out more: A copy of NSCV C6B can be downloaded from www.nmsc.gov.au or by phoning 02 9247 2124. More detail on the other standards included in Amendment List 8 will be posted on the NMSC website as it comes to hand.

The NMSC aims to achieve nationally uniform marine safety practices and is made up of an independent Chair and the CEOs of Australia's marine safety agencies.

Ends

For further information, contact Communications Officer Rosemary Pryor on (02) 9247 2124 or mob: 0406 713 140.

¹ **Note:** For those jurisdictions that currently allow vessels to comply with the USL Code, a new vessel which submits an application prior to 1 October 2010 can be built to these existing requirements, provided construction work begins within a three-year period. However, design approvals submitted after 1 October 2010 must comply with the new standards.