



HARBOURMASTER'S OFFICE

PADDLE CRAFT (INCLUDING KAYAKS, STANDUP PADDLEBOARDS, CANOES, AND WAKA AMA) GUIDELINES¹ FOR OPERATORS 2019

APPLIES TO: Paddle craft hire operators in the Canterbury Region (whether non-accompanied ("freedom hire" or guided).

REFERS TO*: NAVIGATION SAFETY BYLAW 2016 - CLAUSE 31(1) Commercial vessel and hire operations

SAFE OPERATION GUIDELINES (MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS)

1. Equipment and Operation:

- I. Equipment that is well maintained and serviced.
- II. An up-to-date emergency response plan.
- III. Instruction on the legal requirement to wear personal flotation devices (commonly called "lifejackets") at all times when underway.
- IV. Adequate clothing to avoid hypothermia – as cold-water shock can kill.
- V. Supply of a whistle or other form of communication so others can be alerted when hirer is in difficulty.
- VI. Ability to respond and bring back hirer in case of emergency.

2. Hirer Experience:

- I. Check experience of the hirer and assess their level of proficiency.
- II. For persons who claim to have existing skills, conduct a basic check including operating into, and away from, waves, and remounting the equipment from a swimming position.
- III. **Beginners and Inexperienced Paddleboarders:** Restrict paddling to flat shallow water, and light winds. It's hard to paddle against the wind, so just don't take any chances with it.

3. Briefing:

¹ For the sake of clarity, a "guideline" is a recommendation of best practice that is generally expected to be followed although has a reasonable allowance for pragmatic flexibility within the bounds of the exercise of sound professional judgement. This is to be compared with a "procedure", which must be followed except in extenuating cases where the express permission of an approving authority for any requested deviation from the procedure has been granted.

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- I. Hirer to be advised of what to do in an emergency and given clear instructions as to how they may be rescued or can effect a self-rescue.
- II. Outline the [MNZ](#), [KASK](#), and [NZSUP](#) safety guidelines as appropriate for the type of craft:
- III. Instruction of area within which the equipment may be operated and instruction given on the local hazards and rules of the area. Take care when crossing shipping or water-ski lanes.
- IV. Instruction of time required to be back, ensure that the hirer can check the time i.e. waterproof watch, cell phone.
- V. Stay within 200 metres of the shore, if not the operator is to be advised of route and destination.
- VI. Hirer to sign a form outlining the above so there is certainty as to rules of hire and safety.

RELATED INFORMATION

- Navigation Safety Bylaw 2016 Clause 31(1) Commercial vessel and hire operations - <https://ecan.govt.nz/do-it-online/harbourmasters-office/>
- MNZ safety info for paddle craft <https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/recreational/kayaks-and-canoes.asp>
- NZ SUP organisation website - <http://www.nzsup.org/>
- KASK <https://kask.co.nz/>

***NAVIGATION SAFETY BYLAW 2016 - CLAUSE 31(1)** Commercial vessel and hire operations:

“No person shall operate any commercial vessel for hire or reward or any vessel hire operation if, in the opinion of the Harbourmaster, such operation may be deficient in terms of safety or compliance with good practice for such an operation, and the Harbourmaster instructs them to cease operating.”

END

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