Eden District Council

Licensed Boatman/Operator Conditions

1. Age

1.1 Any licensed Boatman must have attained eighteen years of age.

1.2 Any other employee shall have attained sixteen years of age.

1.3 In the absence of the operator any person delegated should have attained eighteen years of age.

2. Physical Condition

2.1 The Operator shall not suffer from any physical disability which is likely to affect his/her mobility or fitness which may restrict his/her ability to discharge their duties in the control or operating of craft/boats let for hire.

2.2 The applicant must complete a declaration to certify if they have ever suffered from any of the following medical conditions: epilepsy, cardio-vascular complaints including angina, insulin dependant diabetes, profound deafness, alcoholism, drug addiction or Parkinson's disease.

2.3 They must be capable of reading a standard vehicle registration mark in good daylight at a distance of 20 metres.

2.4 Any operator aged sixty-five years or over must produce a relevant certificate signed by a medical practitioner as to their fitness to carry out the duties of a boat operator.

2.5 Every employee should be a proficient swimmer.

3. Qualifications

3.1 The boat operator must have a good and sufficient knowledge of the provisions of:

(a) Lake Ullswater (Collision Rules) Order 1966
(b) The Lake District Lake Ullswater Byelaws 1978
(c) Eden District Council boat and boatman conditions
(d) Rules under Health and Safety at Work Regulations

3.2 The holder of a Full Boatman's Licence must have a relevant qualification such as:

(a) Maritime and Coastguard Agency Boatman's Certificate, or
(b) Royal Yachting Association Yacht Master Certificate, or
(c) Any equivalent qualification

4. Licences

4.1 The boat operator shall display their relevant licences and boat schedules at or near the point of hire or launch point of their craft so as to be visible to the public.

4.2 The licences are valid for twelve months, are non-transferable and cannot be backdated.

5. Boat Testing

5.1 The boat operator shall be responsible for arranging to have all the craft required for public hire to be tested by the Council's appointed approved boat inspector who will make a maximum of two visits per annum to each boat operating site to carry out relevant inspections of craft.

6. Boat Hiring

6.1 The boat operator shall have in force a policy of insurance to cover public liability and associated risks with a reputable insurance company.

6.2 The proprietor or boatman or other person in charge:

(a) Shall not, whilst the boats are for hire, suffer to be carried therein a greater number of persons than specified in any licence granted by the Council in respect of the pleasure boat or vessel, or exceed manufacturer's weight, mass recommendations in the opinion of the hirer.

(b) Shall offer every person a lifejacket or buoyancy aid and insist that all non-swimmers and persons under sixteen wear such aid before hire commences.

(c) Shall not hire any boat to any person who is apparently under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

(d) Shall not hire any boat in any inclement weather or rough water conditions where in his/her opinion there is any danger likely to be afforded to the occupants of that craft.

(e) Shall not hire any boat that does not conform to all the statutory and regulatory requirements under the Council's Licensing Scheme and maintain all craft in a serviceable and safe condition to the satisfaction of the boat inspector.

(f) Shall not hire any rowing boat or canoe to any person who, in his/her opinion, is under fourteen years of age unless accompanied by a responsible adult (ie, eighteen years of age or over).

(g) Shall not hire any motorised craft to any person who, in his/her opinion, is under sixteen years of age unless accompanied by a responsible adult (ie, eighteen years of age or over).

6.3 The operator shall notify the Council within seven days of any change of address, operating changes or alteration of any boat or craft from that tested.

6.4 The operator shall provide a safety boat at the point of launch ready to respond to any emergency involving any boat or craft for hire or recovery of any persons in danger in the water from a capsized craft, fire or engine breakdown. That craft should carry the following recommended equipment to deal with such emergencies:

(a) fire extinguisher
(b) first aid kit
(c) life rings
(d) rope
(e) boat hook
(f) blankets
(g) torch or flares
(h) water pump

7. Operating Schedule

7.1 The operator shall have in place at the point of hire/launch a board or record of hire of craft to include:

(a) date and time hired/date and time returned
(b) boat name or number
(c) number of persons hiring

8. Liability

8.1 The Council may suspend or revoke a licence at any time whenever they deem such suspension or revocation to be necessary in the interests of public safety.