

# South African Maritime Safety Authority



## Marine Notice No. 5 of 2007

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### Skippers on Small Vessels (Vessels of <25gt)

TO OWNERS / OPERATORS / SKIPPERS OF SMALL VESSELS, HOLDERS OF CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY (CoC) AS FISHERMEN GRADE 4 (WATCHKEEPERS), PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, AND OTHER AFFECTED PARTIES

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#### *Summary*

The purpose of this marine notice is to inform owners / operators / skippers of small vessels and holders of CoC's as Fishermen Grade 4 (Watchkeeper) – FM4(WK) - of the requirements to serve as a skipper of a small vessel, and to advise that the CoC as FM4(WK) IS NOT equivalent to that of a Small Vessel Skipper.

- 1 The holder of a CoC as a FM4(WK), as part of an investigation into an incident, was assessed and the individual was found, in that instance, competent as a Small Vessel Skipper. Erroneous interpretation of correspondence in this regard resulted in holders of a CoC as FM4(WK) being utilized to serve as skippers of small vessels.
- 2 The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMS) has determined that the CoC as FM4(WK) IS NOT equivalent to that of a Small Vessel Skipper as the syllabus for the former CoC does not include sufficient elements in the subjects seamanship, navigation, basic ship stability and engineering knowledge.
- 3 Holders of CoC's as FM4(WK) ARE NOT permitted to serve as skippers of small vessels.
- 4 Owners / operators / skippers of small vessels and holders of CoC's as FM4(WK) are urged to contact their nearest SAMS office for advice and guidance.

5 June 2007

SM 6/5/2/1  
SM 10/1/4/3  
SM 10/1/4/5

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