



**WESTERN CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
REGIONAL OBSERVER PROGRAMME
VESSEL SAFETY CHECK GUIDELINES**

ROP-IWG3 21/03/09

VESSEL INFORMATION

TYPE OF VESSEL	PS	LL	P&L	OTHER
NAME OF VESSEL				Vessel Size (Length)
FLAG STATE				< 16 metres <input type="checkbox"/>
CALL SIGN OR WCPFC WIN NUMBER				16-25 metres <input type="checkbox"/>
FLAG STATE				26 -39 metres <input type="checkbox"/>
REGISTRATION NUMBER				40-65 metres <input type="checkbox"/>
OWNER/OPERATOR				> 65 metres <input type="checkbox"/>
MASTER /CAPTAIN				

VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO BE CHECKED	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION (CURRENT)				
2. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICES AVAILABLE				
3. APPROVED LIFE RAFT OR LIFE BOATS UNDER CURRENT SURVEY AND ADEQUATE FOR NUMBER OF CREW				
4. EPIRBS (CURRENT SURVEY)				
5. DISTRESS SIGNALS AND FLARES				
6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IN GOOD ORDER				
7. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (CURRENT CHECKED)				
8. MARINE RADIO HF SSB OR SUBSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS				
9. NAVIGATION LIGHTS / VESSEL LIGHTS (WORKING ORDER)				
10. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES OR BELL				
ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE CHECKED				
11. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER				
12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS ON BOARD THAT COULD BE UTILISED IN CASE OF EMERGENCY				
13. NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS (GPS/RADAR)				
14. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT				
15. SANITATION				
16. PHONE				
17. EMAIL/FAX				
18. INSURANCE FOR OBSERVER WHILST ON BOARD				
19. VESSEL INSURANCE				
20. ROOM FOR CREW AND OBSERVER TO WORK SAFELY				

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING IS CONSIDERED TO BE NOT SUITABLE FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING

VESSEL AT THE TIME OF CHECKING MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR AN OBSERVER BOARDING

NAME OF CHECKER _____ POSITION _____

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

EXPLANATION ON VSC REQUIREMENTS

The fields in this form are to be used as a guide when developing a Vessel Safety Checklist (VSC) for National Observer Programmes. If a National programme has a VSC in place then that should be used, however the fields in this form may be used to check safety, on whether an observer is safe to board the vessel.

1. VESSEL SURVEY DOCUMENTATION CURRENT Fishing Vessels and support vessels operating in the WCPFC must comply with their Flag State regulations and/or the Code of Practice for Safety. Ship surveys including condition, safety and security aspects of hull, machinery and on board safety equipment must be available to be viewed
2. CORRECT SIZE PERSONAL FLOATATION DEVICE AVAILABLE Life Jackets must be approved types and in good serviceable condition, Life Jackets of suitable sizes must be readily accessible for the observer and all crew. Life jackets will not be stored away or locked in cupboards or rooms.
3. APPROVED LIFE -Life rafts must be currently in survey and be adequate to carry the amount of crew including the observer on board the vessel.
4. EPIRBS International Standard 406 MHz EPIRB. The signal frequency (406 MHz) has been designated internationally for use only for distress. Check to see the frequency number and position of these EPIRBS, a few vessels may have the older relatively common type of 121.5/243 MHz emergency beacons, these became obsolete in late 2008
5. DISTRESS SIGNAL AND FLARES. Vessels should have on board appropriate pyrotechnics devices that will suitably operate in both day and night emergency situations
6. FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT Fire fighting must be readily available, be able to work and be currently serviceable. Note that some small vessels may only have fire extinguishers on board.
7. MOUNTED FIRE EXTINGUISHER, Fire extinguishers must be readily available and be of the correct type. Portable extinguishers require periodic maintenance therefore the last inspection date when last tested or refilled should be available. All must be currently serviceable and if possible should be checked to ensure extinguishes have not been fully or partially discharged.
8. MARINE RADIO HF SSB(WORKING ORDER) Marine SSB (Single Side Band) is a means of communications for many fishing vessels. The radio must be capable of transmitting and receiving frequencies used for emergency marine communications as agreed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or by the Flag State of the vessel.
9. NAVIGATION LIGHTS AND VESSEL LIGHTS Vessels must be able to display international standard navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility. Internal and external vessel lighting must be fully operational. In the case of power failure, battery operated safety lights must be appropriately placed to ensure a safe exit from the vessel
10. SOUND PRODUCING SIGNALS OR BELLS Vessels must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren or bell) capable of a prolonged blast or ringing for distress signaling purposes.
11. REGISTRATION DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER Flag State Registration documentation papers must be on board and available to be viewed and must show registration number, boats name, country and port of registration.
12. OTHER WORK RELATED VESSELS Many vessels have auxiliary vessels that can be used in emergency situations. Note these.
13. .NAUTICAL CHARTS AND NAVIGATION AIDS Vessel must have a set of appropriate, up to date nautical charts. Check to ensure that the Radar, GPS and any other navigational equipment is in good order and functioning.
14. FIRST AID EQUIPMENT the vessel must have adequate first aid facilities with current “use by dates” on all apparatus, drugs, dressings and other first aid paraphernalia.
15. SANITATION The vessel should have clean, well maintained sanitation and bathing facilities. Depending on the size of the vessel, observers may experience a lack of these facilities on board.
16. PHONE if the vessel has a satellite phone note the number for future reference.
17. EMAIL/FAX If the vessel has Fax or Email system note the numbers for future reference or emergencies.
18. INSURANCE FOR OBSERVERS ON BOARD - Observers must be covered by insurance before making a boarding
19. VESSEL INSURANCE – Check if vessel has insurance
20. ROOM FOR OBSERVER AND CREW TO WORK SAFELY . There must be adequate room on board the deck for the Observer and Crew to work in such a manner, so as to not hinder each other in their respective work duties.