



SHIP SAFETY BULLETIN

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Ship Safety Bulletins provide safety-related information to the marine community.
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Subject: **SAFETY OF SMALL FISHING VESSELS:
Information to Owners/Masters about Stability Booklets**

Purpose/Application

This bulletin sets out the process for determining whether a small fishing vessel requires a stability booklet and what to do if it does. Transport Canada's requirement for stability booklets establishes an interim measure in anticipation of the new *Fishing Vessel Safety Regulations* that are to come into force in 2007, and provides a standard interpretation of Section 48 of the current requirements, the *Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations*.

As stability is important for all vessels, this bulletin applies to all owners and operators of fishing vessels, new and existing, that are between 15 and 150 gross tons, or not more than 24.4 metres in length. All masters/owners are strongly encouraged to obtain stability booklets if their vessels have any of the risk factors identified by the *Stability Information Questionnaire* attached as [Appendix A](#).

For vessels that are more than 15 gross tons and that have any of the risk factors, Transport Canada will check that a stability booklet is on board before issuing an inspection certificate.

Vessels that require a stability booklet as a result of this bulletin and have a certificate that is about to expire may be given up to twelve months of grace to obtain a stability booklet by use of a short-term certificate.

Background

Stability is a fundamental safety aspect for any vessel. To keep a vessel stable, it requires a design fit for its intended purpose, an understanding of the vessel's operating limits, and knowledge of how to operate the vessel within those limits.

It is the master's responsibility to know and stay within the limits of safe operation for the vessel and it is the owner's responsibility to support the master in doing so.

A working knowledge of a vessel's limits can be developed over time by observing how it handles in different conditions. For smaller vessels, this may be all that's necessary, but to really understand a vessel's safe operating capabilities, a test is needed. Results of this test can then be used to calculate the vessel's ability to right itself under different loading conditions. A stability booklet, prepared using a vessel's design and operating characteristics, sets out the steps to follow in order to carry the maximum load safely.

Keywords:

1. Stability booklet
2. Small fishing vessel
3. Risk factor

Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to:

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To add or change your address, contact us at: marinesafety@tc.gc.ca
Owners of commercial vessels, registered and licensed, automatically receive Bulletins.

Section 29 of the *Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations* requires a stability booklet if a vessel is used to catch capelin or herring. Additionally, Section 48 of the same Regulations permits an inspector to request any tests necessary to verify a vessel's seaworthiness. In addition, vessels fishing for capelin or herring, Transport Canada has identified a number of risk criteria that can negatively affect stability. With this bulletin, Transport Canada has established a nationally consistent baseline for applying Section 48 and requires that a stability booklet be on board all vessels that have any of these risk factors. If your vessel has one of the risk factors, but does not have a stability booklet, the vessel's certificate may not be issued.

Process

Immediately -- Complete the *Stability Information Questionnaire* in [Appendix A](#). If your vessel has any of the characteristics in Sections 3 or 4 of the questionnaire, and you do not have a stability booklet, or if modifications that affect your vessel's stability negatively have been made since the booklet was prepared, you will need to have a booklet prepared or update the existing one. If you are in doubt, contact a marine consultant.

Stability booklets are prepared by naval architects using the criteria in STAB 1 and STAB 4 of the [Stability, Subdivision and Load Line Standards \(TP 7301\)](#) and, if the vessel has a significant amount of area exposed to the wind relative to its dimensions, Section 4.2.4 of the International Maritime Organization *Code on Intact Stability* (or equivalent). To prepare the booklet, the naval architect needs: hull particulars taken from vessel plans, the results of an inclining experiment; and information on how the vessel will be used in fishing. If plans are not available, out of water measurements must be taken.

If the booklet is stamped by a professional engineer (P.Eng./Ing.) with naval architecture expertise; or an exclusive surveyor to: American Bureau of Shipping; Lloyd's Register; Det Norske Veritas; Germanischer Lloyd; or Bureau Veritas, Transport Canada need not be directly involved. A copy of the stamped booklet is to be sent to Transport Canada for monitoring purposes. Alternatively, if Transport Canada approves the booklet, as is the case now, a Transport Canada inspector must witness the inclining experiment. The stability booklet will contain typical operational conditions that reduce the potential risk posed to the vessel's stability.

Review the booklet when you receive it with the person who prepared it to ensure you understand it. Use the booklet to guide you when operating the vessel.

During inspection: Before issuing a certificate to a small fishing vessel, Transport Canada will review the *Stability Information Questionnaire* with the master and have the master sign it to confirm the information is correct and understood. If a stability booklet is required, the inspector will check that the booklet is on board, has a valid stamp and will go through the restrictions with the master.

For more information, please contact your local Transport Canada Centre in the blue pages of your telephone directory.

BE AWARE AND TAKE CARE

Having a stability booklet does not guarantee a vessel will not capsize. Whether or not the vessel has a stability booklet, **masters must exercise prudence and good seamanship** taking into account the season of the year, weather forecasts, the navigational zone and take the appropriate action as to speed and course warranted by the conditions.

STABILITY INFORMATION QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR A COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL

QUESTIONNAIRE SUR LA STABILITÉ
CONCERNANT UN BATEAU DE PÊCHE COMMERCIALE

NOTE:

Use this form to determine whether your vessel's characteristics indicate a stability booklet is required on board.
Utiliser le présent formulaire pour déterminer si, selon les caractéristiques de votre bateau, un livret de stabilité est requis à bord du bateau.

VESSEL PARTICULARS - CARACTÉRISTIQUES DU BATEAU

Vessel name - Nom du bateau	Vessel type - Type de bateau <input type="checkbox"/> Decked / Ponté <input type="checkbox"/> Undecked / Non ponté	Voyage class - Classe de voyage
Beginning of fishing operations (month/day) - Début de la saison des opérations (mois/jour)		End of fishing operations (month/day) - Fin de la saison des opérations (mois/jour)
Vessel length - Longueur du bateau	Vessel breadth - Largeur du bateau	Vessel depth - Creux du bateau
1. What type(s) of fishing operation is the vessel performing? - Quel type de pêche le bateau pratique-t-il ?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gill net / Filet maillant <input type="checkbox"/> Trolling / À la traîne <input type="checkbox"/> Longline / Palangre <input type="checkbox"/> Seining / Pêche a la senne <input type="checkbox"/> Pots/traps / Casiers/pièges <input type="checkbox"/> Trawling / Chalutier <input type="checkbox"/> Diving / Plongeur <input type="checkbox"/> Others / Autres _____		
a) What fish species? - Quelle(s) espèce(s) de poisson?	b) Number of pots/traps stowed on deck? (if applicable) / Nombre de cages cordées sur le pont? (si applicable)	c) Mass of fish carried on deck? (if applicable) / Masse de poisson transportée en ponté? (si applicable) kg
2. a) What type of fishing gear or top side weight does the vessel carry? (above main deck) / Quel type d'équipements de pêche ou de poids en hauteur le bateau transporte t-il? (au-dessus du pont principal)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gantry / Portique <input type="checkbox"/> Seine/traps skiff / Bateau auxiliaire <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter deck / Pont abri <input type="checkbox"/> Aft Platform / Plate-forme arrière <input type="checkbox"/> Net drum / Enrouleur de filet <input type="checkbox"/> Spare nets / Filets de rechange <input type="checkbox"/> Multi deck / Plusieurs ponts <input type="checkbox"/> Loading boom / crane / Bôme / grue de chargement <input type="checkbox"/> Warping winch / Treuil <input type="checkbox"/> Paravanes / Paravannes <input type="checkbox"/> Fish processing equipment (boiler, plate freezer) / Équipement de transformation du poisson (chaudrière, congélateur à plaque) <input type="checkbox"/> Pots/traps / Casiers/pièges <input type="checkbox"/> Ice accumulation / Accumulation de glace <input type="checkbox"/> Live well / Vivier <input type="checkbox"/> Others / Autres _____		
b) Does the vessel carry multiple sets of gear at one time? - Est-ce que le bateau transporte plusieurs gréements de pêche en même temps?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes / Oui <input type="checkbox"/> No / Non		

STABILITY REQUIREMENTS - EXIGENCES DE STABILITÉ

3. Does this vessel carry capelin or herring? - Est-ce que ce bateau transporte du capelan ou du hareng? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / Oui <input type="checkbox"/> No / Non
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A stability booklet is required if the vessel is used to catch capelin and/or herring and is of closed (decked) construction. **Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations - Sections 5 and 29.**
Un livret de stabilité est requis si le bateau est ponté et utilisé pour la pêche au capelan et/ou au hareng. **Règlement sur l'inspection des petits bateaux de pêche - articles 5 et 29.**

4. Do any of the following stability risk factors apply to this vessel? - Est-ce que l'un des facteurs de risque suivants est applicable à ce bateau?

- i) an anti-roll tank
a une citerne antiroulis
- ii) carries liquid cargoes and / or fitted with live wells
transporte des cargaisons liquides et/ou est équipé de cale à eau vive
- iii) substantial top side weight, (significant weights with a high centre of gravity (ex : gantry))*
a du poids substantiel en hauteur, (poids significatifs ayant un centre de gravité élevé (ex : portique))*
- iv) the vessel operates in an area and time of year where icing may occur.*
le bateau opère dans un endroit pendant une saison de l'année où il peut y avoir une accumulation de glace.*
- v) has significant windage (the projected lateral area is unusually high relative to the length of the vessel.)*
dérivation importante (la surface latérale en dehors de l'eau est particulièrement haute par rapport à la longueur du bâtiment.)*
- vi) has had modifications or changed fishing operations in a way that reduces stability, for example, from pots/traps to trawling, or larger nets/drum where the height or weight above deck is increased.*
a subi des modifications ou a changé d'activités de pêche, faisant en sorte que la stabilité a été réduite; par exemple, passage des casiers/pièges au chalutage, ou utilisation de filets/tambours plus grands dont la taille et le poids au-dessus du pont sont plus importants.*

* If in doubt, consult a marine consultant or Transport Canada. - * En cas de doute, consultez un consultant maritime ou Transports Canada.

Yes
Oui

No
Non

A stability booklet is required if the vessel has any of the above risk factors. **Small Fishing Vessel Inspection Regulations - Section 48:**
Un livret de stabilité est requis lorsque le bateau rencontre l'un des facteurs de risque ci-dessus. **Règlement sur l'inspection des petits bateaux de pêche - article 48 :**

IF NONE OF THE CHARACTERISTICS IN 3 OR 4 ARE APPLICABLE TO THE VESSEL LEAVE THE REMAINDER OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE BLANK AND SIGN AT THE BOTTOM, OTHERWISE CONTINUE.

SI AUCUNE DES CARACTÉRISTIQUES DANS LA CASE 3 OU 4 NE S'APPLIQUE, LAISSER LE QUESTIONNAIRE CI-APRÈS EN BLANC ET SIGNER AU BAS DE LA PAGE. SI TEL N'EST PAS LE CAS, VEUILLEZ CONTINUER.

5. If a stability booklet is required, is there a copy onboard the vessel? - Si un livret de stabilité est requis, y a-t-il une copie à bord du bateau?

Yes
Oui

No
Non

If no, take steps to have a booklet prepared. - Si non, faites des démarches pour obtenir un livret.

6. Has the vessel been modified since the inclining? - Est-ce que le bateau a été modifié depuis l'essai d'inclinaison?

Yes
Oui

No
Non

Description of modifications - Description des modifications

If YES, have the modifications been accounted for in the stability booklet? **If they haven't, take steps to have the booklet updated.**
Si OUI, est-ce que les modifications ont été prises en compte dans le livret? **Sinon, faites des démarches pour mettre à jour le livret.**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that this record is correct in all respects. - **IL EST CERTIFIÉ** que la présente fiche est correcte à tous les égards.

Master name - Nom du capitaine

Master signature - Signature du capitaine

Date
(yyyy-mm-dd - aaaa-mm-jj)