

Advisory Circular

PART 20 Operating Limits

Issue No. 20-2 15 March 2000

1. General

Maritime Safety Authority Advisory Circulars are designed to give you assistance and explanations about the standards and requirements set out in the rules. However, the notes contained in Advisory Circulars should not be treated as a substitute for the rules themselves, which are the law.

When a number such as 20.4 is referred to, this is a reference to a specific rule within Part 20.

2. Amendments

Any change to the limits defined in this Part must be treated as an amendment to the rule and therefore subject to the notification and consultation process associated with the making and amendment of rules under the Maritime Transport Act 1994.

Any proposal for changing the defined limits should, in the first instance, be forwarded to the Manager, Standards, Maritime Safety Authority, P O Box 27006, Wellington.

3. Determination of Operational Limits for a Specific Ship

The permitted operating limits for any ship will be determined by the surveyor who may assign any of the limits detailed in Appendix 1.

In assigning such operating limits the surveyor is to take into account the requirements of the applicable design, construction and equipment rules, and in particular –

- (a) for fishing ships, rule 40D.4;
- (b) for restricted passenger ships, rule 40A.4;
- (c) for non-passenger ships, rule 40C.4;
- (d) for sailing ships, rule 40F.4.

These include a requirement that the surveyor be satisfied the ship is fit for its intended service and intended operating limits. The surveyor may also take into account the knowledge and experience of the skipper in relation to that particular area.

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INSHORE LIMITS

The surveyor may assign to a ship one or more of the inshore limits prescribed in Appendix 1. An inshore limit, which is only part of the inshore limit prescribed in Appendix 1, may also be assigned to a ship.

A surveyor may also assign limits which are outside those prescribed in Appendix 1, provided that the limit is within the New Zealand 12 mile territorial limit and does not allow a voyage across Cook Strait.

When assigning any such inshore limit the surveyor must have regard to the intent of the established and defined inshore limits. The primary purpose of the inshore limit is to permit a ship to make local seaward commercial voyages from its port of domicile and return the same day. The surveyor is to be satisfied that, in the event of an unfavourable weather report, the ship should be able to reach shelter (not necessarily its port of departure) within an appropriate time, taking into account the characteristics of the ship and its intended use.

Where any ship intends to undertake extended coastal voyages outside the defined inshore limits but within the limit of the territorial sea of New Zealand they are to be assigned 'restricted coastal limits within the territorial sea of New Zealand from point A to point B'.

RESTRICTED COASTAL LIMITS

A surveyor may assign to a ship any specific area of operation within the coastal limit as a restricted coastal limit.

4. Requirements for Ships that Keep Old Limits

Rule 20.5(3) allows a ship to keep those operating limits stated on its certificate of survey, at the date of the ship's entry into a safe ship management system, until the 1st February 2000.

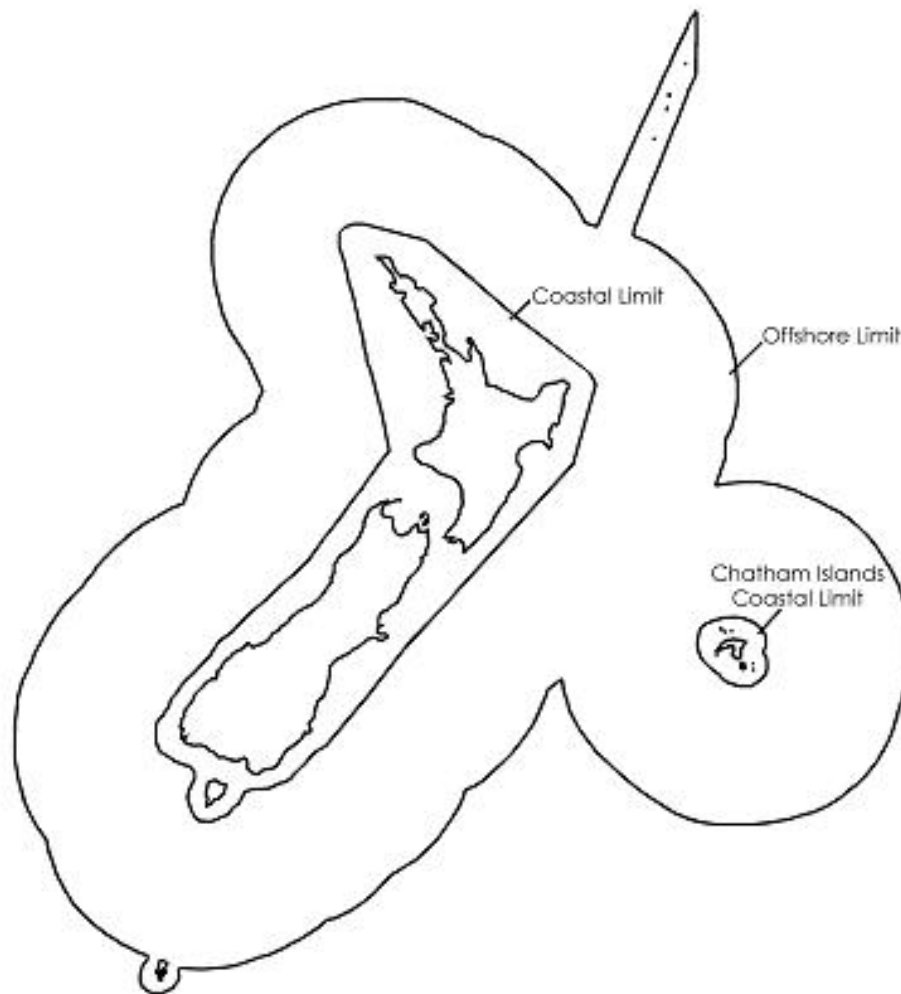
At some date before the 1st February 2000, the ship must be assigned operating limits by a surveyor which are in accordance with those prescribed in Part 20.

In assigning those limits, the surveyor is to take into account those requirements mentioned in clause 3 above.

5. Single Voyages outside Restricted Limits

Rule 20.7(2)(b) requires that any ship that is permitted under rule 20.7(1) to make a single voyage into coastal limits must comply with any additional safety requirements required by the maritime rules. Those additional safety requirements will be found, for fishing ships in rule 40D.6, for restricted passenger ships in rule 40A.6, for non-passenger ships in rule 40C.6 and for sailing ships in rule 40E.6.

6. Coastal and Offshore Limits



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