

Risk Assessment for Narrowboat Day Hire Ltd.

Monday 5th June 2023 - Stephen Biddick and Paul Musgrave

Introduction:

This risk assessment aims to identify and assess potential risks associated with operating Narrowboat Day Hire Ltd., a narrowboat day hire company; to implement measures that minimise or mitigate these risks and ensure the safety of customers, staff, and the general public visiting Cowroast Marina.

Risk Identification:

Following a staff consultation, we identified the following potential risks:

a) Slips, Trips, and Falls:

- Uneven surfaces on the boat and at the boarding area.
- Wet or slippery surfaces due to weather conditions or spills.
- Lack of proper signage and warnings.
- Unfamiliar surroundings leading to man overboard situation

b) Collisions and Accidents and Canal Damage:

- Collisions with other boats, structures, or stationary objects.
- Inexperienced or negligent boat operators causing accidents.
- Hazards other waterway users pose (e.g., commercial vessels, kayaks, paddleboards).
- Canal infrastructure damage due to excess speed or mishandling.
- Vessel grounding.

c) Mechanical and Equipment Failures:

- Engine or steering system failures.
- Malfunctioning safety equipment (e.g., life jackets, fire extinguishers).
- Electrical system failures.

d) Fire Hazards:

- Potential electrical or gas fires onboard.
- Inadequate fire prevention measures.
- Lack of fire safety training for customers.

e) Adverse Weather Conditions:

- High winds, storms, or heavy rain affecting navigation.
- Flooding or waterway closures.
- Limited visibility due to fog or mist.

f) Health and Safety of Customers:

- Customer accidents or injuries during embarking, disembarking, bridges, mooring or moving around the boat.

- Insufficient safety instructions or emergency procedures.
- Effects on risk of changed circumstances
- Allergic reactions or medical emergencies.
- Carbon monoxide poisoning.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Measures:

To minimise or mitigate the identified risks, we consider the following measures.

a) Slips, Trips, and Falls:

- Regular inspection and maintenance of boarding areas and boat surfaces.
- Provision of non-slip surfaces and handrails.
- Clear signage and warnings about potential hazards.
- Adequate lighting in dark or low visibility areas.
- Hirers issued with PFD for the period of hire and hirers are briefed on how to correctly wear and fit a PFD.
- Explain the 'man overboard' procedure to customers during briefing.
- Hirers advised to wear appropriate footwear.
- Hirers instructed not to jump when getting on and off the boat.

b) Collisions and Accidents and Canal Damage:

- Comprehensive customer briefings on safe navigation and waterway rules.
- Clear marking of restricted areas to avoid collisions.
- Adequate training and certification for staff. (Helmsmans', First Aid)
- Instruct guests on monitoring waterway traffic and communication with other vessels.
- Instruct guests on correct speed, safe stops and how to moor the boats regarding canal infrastructure damage due to excess speed or mishandling.
- Appropriate insurance policy.
- We dedicate particular attention to *water conservation at the canal's summit*.

c) Mechanical and Equipment Failures:

- Routine maintenance and inspections of boats, engines, and safety equipment.
- Clear procedures for reporting and addressing equipment malfunctions.
- Availability of backup safety equipment onboard.
- Regular training for staff on emergency response and equipment operation.
- Boat Safety Certification of boats.

d) Fire Hazards:

- Installation and regular inspection of appropriate fire detection and suppression systems.
- Clear instructions and demonstrations on fire safety procedures for customers.
- Regular testing and maintenance of electrical and gas systems including carbon monoxide and fire alarms
- Provision of fire extinguishers and fire blankets on each boat.
- Gas Certification of boats.

e) Adverse Weather Conditions:

- Monitoring weather forecasts and informing customers of potential risks.

- Prohibiting boat operation during severe weather conditions.
- Providing customers with safety guidelines for adverse weather scenarios.
- Clear communication channels with customers for weather updates and emergencies.

f) Health and Safety of Customers:

- Comprehensive safety briefings before each trip, highlighting risks and emergency procedures.
- Availability of first aid kits onboard and trained staff to handle medical emergencies.
- Clear communication channels with emergency services.
- Regular review of customer feedback to address emerging safety concerns.
- Staff first aid qualification.
- Hirers briefed on how to use fuel burning appliances. Boats checked after each period of hire and before new hire. Fire and CO2 alarms checked regularly.

Regular Review:

This risk assessment should be subject to periodic review and updated to incorporate changes in the operating environment, regulations, or customer feedback. Staff will undergo regular training sessions to ensure adherence to safety protocols.

Note: This risk assessment provides a general overview and may be modified according to the specific needs and circumstances of Narrowboat Day Hire Ltd as the business evolves and follows Consultation with relevant experts, such as marine safety professionals and the Canal and River Trust.

We will ensure a thorough assessment and implementation of the appropriate risk mitigation measures.

Stability Compliance Declaration:

This vessel has undergone the relevant stability assessment required within the boat hire code.

- Lavender – 529521
- Maximum crew number – 10
- Stability and freeboard standards level 2
- Assessor – Paul Musgrave 22/6/23