

Standards for Parasailing Operations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Definition: The standards applicable conduct of Parasailing using commercial boat.

Meaning of parasailing: Towing of a multi-vented or sail-like parasail by a boat that may be launched from a boat platform.

I. Manpower for Operations:

The Master/Operator and Observer/Look-out must have obtained certification in Life Saving Techniques, covering Rescue, Recovery, First Aid & CPR from National Institute of Water Sports or Authorized Agency, proof of which must be submitted at the time of application. In addition;

A. Boat Master/Driver/Operator

- i. Qualification –Must have a remote control powerboat handling [PBH-4 (LEVEL 3)] certification from the National Institute of Water sports or Authorized Agency.
- ii. Must have a completed minimum 500 parasailing flights as a deck-hand and at least 100 parasailing launches in control of the vessel under supervision using different chutes and in different weather conditions. This must have been completed within a maximum time limit of six months from the date of first certification as Learner's certification, a Log of which must be produced for verification.
- iii. Must have adequate experience in carrying out parasailing operations independently.
- iv. Must prepare a risk assessment plan for all unforeseen events-especially high wind, rain, overcast (poor visibility), high swell and the like on daily basis.

B. Boat Master/Driver/Operator

- i. The operator must ensure that the Supervisor/Observer/ Look-out stationed on the Parasailing boat is adequately experienced in operations. It is also desirable for such person to have proficiency in handling of the boat so as to act in emergency situations.
- ii. The Supervisor/Observer/Look-out must be stationed at launching point- onboard/shore- who constantly watch out the movement of the chute, the sources of dangers at deck, sea and air during every flight and to apprise the Master as and when needed.
- iii. Under no circumstances shall the operator & crew utilize any equipment outside the parameters for which it was designed & must at all times adhere to manufacturers' specifications.
- iv. All operators shall wear the uniforms made of the sea-worthy cloths.

II. Equipments & Standards:

This shall include the boat and all those gears and gadgets as required for safe conduct of the parasailing operations.

A. Equipments required for operations:

Parasailing boat with Min. 300 HP capacity engine, parachute as required, harness, rope, wind meter, rectangular rescue tube, helmets, lifejackets, fire extinguisher and rescue-boat, Lifebuoys, rescue quoits, fire buckets with lanyards, communication equipment, medical kit, anchor with 30 mtrs. of rope and mobile phone.

B. Boat and Engine:

- i. The boat used for parasailing must have adequate power (minimum of 300 HP) with remote control, preferably with in-board engine.
- ii. The Boat must have a strong point specially built for attachment of parasail.
- iii. It has to come with Builder's certificate confirming that the boat has been built to undertake Parasailing operations before registration/permission.
- iv. The boat must have been built as per IRS / equivalent approved design. It can either be an approved design already available with the manufacturer or a fresh approval obtained for making the new one.
- v. The Builder must certify that the mandatory testing such as stability, buoyancy etc. has been carried out for the parasailing boat. Certificate thereof must be produced for the verification of the authorities before registration.

C. As per the Water Sports Policy of A&N, only such parasailing undertaken through a **winch mechanism shall be permitted.**

D. Parachute and the Webbing (Body Harness System):

The operator must have in possession of the parachutes of different sizes as prescribed for operations during different wind-speed conditions - low, moderate and high. The Harness must also be of high quality consisting of a lower back and seat strap, leg straps and adjustable waist strap with clips.

E. Equipment and accessories to be used for Parasailing operations shall be made of material suitable for use over water. The operator must have a windsock or a hand-held wind speed meter to determine the wind velocity.

F. Daily Equipment Inspection:

The operator must ensure that:

- i. It shall be the responsibility of the first mate in-charge to make certain that the vessel is maintained and is properly equipped with in a sea-worthy condition.

- ii. All equipments to be used for Parasailing operation must be inspected by him personally every day, before and after the operations. A logging system for the same may be maintained and shown to authorities as and when called for.
- iii. The inspection must be undertaken as per the manufacturers' specification for each equipment in use.
- iv. The winch must be tested through its full range of operations and a written record of the same maintained.

G. Annual Inspection:

The boat and equipments must be subjected to Annual Inspection by the Manufacturer/Its Agent/Appropriately experienced person for such inspection every year. A written report on the same must be submitted at the time of application for renewal of registration every year

H. The operator shall ensure that all parasailing equipments are fitted, inspected, maintained, replaced and used as stipulated by the manufacturer.

I. Winch Rope:

- i. It must fulfil the standards specified by the manufacturer both on account of load and number flights permissible.
- ii. Its length must be as stipulated by the manufacturer of the parasail harness.
- iii. The safe working load of the rope should be as specified by the manufacturer or a minimum breaking strain of 3000 kg. It must be replaced after 400 flights or four months after the first use or as specified by manufacturer, whichever is earlier.

J. Towline Inspection & Maintenance:

Towline in its entirety shall be inspected daily for damage and/ or wear and if necessary shall be immediately replaced. Towline shall be kept clean & maintained in accordance with manufacturers' specifications, requirements and/ or recommendations. A written log of inspections & maintenance shall be kept at all times.

K. The Operator shall ensure that only those equipments fulfilling the safety parameters are used in the operations.

L. The parasail boat and the equipment should be offered for inspection to the authorized agency / competent authority, before permission/registration is granted to the operator, by the authority competent to grant such permission/registration.

M. Group Personal Accident Policy:

All boats must have been insured under this scheme and should be valid during the entire period of its registration. The activity of Parasailing shall be covered by a public liability insurance of Rs. 20.00 lakhs per accident and maximum coverage for four times i.e. Rs. 80.00 lakhs per annum. Besides there should also be a minimum Personal Accident Insurance cover of Rs. 5.00 lakhs per person undergoing Parasailing activity at any point of time.

III. Standard Operating Procedure:**A. Pre-Flight Weather Evaluation:**

- i. It is Master's/Operators responsibility to evaluate and determine if weather conditions are favourable for parasailing. The person shall use all means available to make such a determination.
- ii. Before launch of operations and while operation is progressing, the Master shall diligently observe: wind-speed, wind direction, condition of the sea (swell/turbulence), rain, fog and visibility.
- iii. No operator shall knowingly parasail in rain, heavy fog or during a known lighting storm within 50 km from the parasailing area, in addition a daily weather log shall be maintained.
- iv. A wind meter must be kept on-board throughout operations to measure the wind-speed and direction.
- v. If the weather conditions are not within the stipulated safety limits and/or the sea-swell is assessed as unsafe for operations and/or as and when the warnings are issued by the concerned agencies, no activity should be carried out.

B. Pre-flight briefing:

All parasail participants shall be required to view a Parasail safety briefing video & /or read and understand a written parasailing safety briefing hand-out which shall include:

- i. Description of the activity itself.
- ii. Safety precautions while underway and in-flight
- iii. Safety and lifesaving equipment positioning on the boat.
- iv. Warnings and or Authorized Agency Procedures for unexpected events, such as water landings, equipment malfunctions, and towline separation.
- v. Procedure in the event of an emergency onboard the vessel.
- vi. Proper use of signals.
- vii. Question and answer session/Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- viii. Exclusion of any participant that may be afraid or intimidated prior participation.

C. Rider Profile

- a. The operator shall strictly ensure that passengers are free from health, medical problems such as blood pressure, heart problems, etc. and shall obtain necessary undertaking regarding risk & release of liability waiver from all passengers prior to starting the activity.
- b. The riders wearing loose cloths such as sari, dhoti, dhupatta etc. shall be discouraged totally from undertaking the rides.
- c. In no circumstance, **pregnant women and children below 16 years of age, be allowed to parasail.**
- d. No operator shall allow more than 2 passengers to take a ride on a single chute at a time.
- e. Multi-passenger flights shall only be conducted under the following conditions and only after the operator has made reasonable judgement prior to each and every flight. Extreme caution must be exercised:
 - i. At no time shall there more than 2 passengers in any canopy
 - ii. Wind conditions must be adequate, stable and consistent.
 - iii. Conditions must be conducive to such activities
 - iv. Commercial equipment specifically designed and professionally manufactured for multi-passenger flight operations must be utilised.
 - v. All equipment must adhere to manufacturers' specifications, requirements and/or recommendations.
 - vi. Vessel's winch system must be equipped with a functional level-winder during all multi-passenger flights.
 - vii. Rider must fill up indemnity bond before launch.

D. Designated area of operation:

The activity shall be carried out in specially demarcated areas by the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman & Nicobar Administration/an agency appointed for this purpose, in an area free from temporary shacks/deck beds/ beach umbrellas and electric poles, etc. to be operated in queue system.

E. Operations Protocol

- i. The Parasailing boat must be operated by a trained, qualified and experienced Master/Driver who is capable of carrying out operations in safe manner.
- ii. The boat must carry a person serving as a "Observer"/"Lookout".
- iii. The boat driver must keep a sharp lookout for swimmers in water to take quick evasive action.
- iv. Before the flight, the riders must be given briefing on the ride, risks associated and safety precautions.
- v. Life jacket and light helmets (ISI approved) should be made mandatory for the passengers. At all times participants shall wear a properly fitted type approved life jackets.

- vi. A rectangular rescue tube recommended by the National Institute of Water Sports / authorised agencies should be always available in the parasail and rescue boats.
- vii. Parasail log books (as per Annexure –I, enclosed herewith) with columns prescribed by National Institute of Water Sports shall be strictly maintained by the operator and shall be shown on demand to the official of the Directorate of Tourism or to any other authority.
- viii. A rescue boat must be made available by the operator in full readiness during the entire period of water sport operation. This boat must be powered by an OBM of minimum 40 HP. A certified lookout-cum-boat driver must be at standby and stationed on the boat. The boat as well as the lookout should not be involved with any other activity while on rescue duty.
- ix. Operations must follow the standard procedure as laid down from time to time.
- x. Towline Length Limitations;
 - a. The vessel's winch drum must be equipped with towline of around 400 feet (122 mts.) while conducting parasail flight operations. However, under no circumstance must the towline exceed 500 feet (150 mts.).
 - b. The height of an ascending Parasail must be restricted within a vertical height of 60 meters (200 ft.) above Water Level.

F. Navigation for Parasailing:

- i. Parasailing boat is navigated in opposite to the direction of wind and that could vary while the ride is in progress. Hence, the Boat Master must ensure that he steers the boat at an angle that is safe between the centre-line of the boat and the rope. Other aspects such as wind-speed, sea-swell, rain, visibility, fog and the like must also be factored into the navigation planning.
- ii. While navigating, it must be carried out at a safe distance from: another parasailing boat in operations (200 mts.), another plying or anchored boat, wharf/jetty/fixed structures or other hazardous objects.
- iii. For Parasailing in a leeward area, the Master must carry out proper risk assessment first, since the risk of injury in such areas compared to wind-ward area is observed to be higher. Further, the distance of the boat to be maintained from the shore in relation to the wind-speed is: a). Up to 9 kn.- equal to the length of the winch rope; b). Between 9-13 kn.- twice the length of the winch rope; c). Above 13 kn.- thrice the length of the winch rope.
- iv. The parasailing operations must be stopped whenever the wind speed exceeds **18 km/ hour (10 kn./hour) at sea level.**
- v. The operator shall at all times maintain a minimum operating distance from any surf Zone, shore line or fixed object of not less than 500 feet.

G. Payload Restrictions:

The Boat/engine, winch, rope, parachute etc. has stipulated payload limits as prescribed by the manufacturer, which must be strictly adhered. Hence, the Master/Operator of the boat must ensure that the minimum and maximum payload limit as prescribed by the Manufacturer for each parasail flight is strictly complied with.

H. Controlled dipping:

If a parasailing rider makes a request for dipping, the Master may consider in doing so only when:

- i. She/He is confident of maintaining the stability of the boat and able to carry out dipping safely and without causing any injury to the Para-sailor;
- ii. There are no hindrances like anchored or plying boats in the area of operation/jetty/fixed structures/power-line and the like.
- iii. The Para-sailor does not come within 50 meters of the boat-stern.



अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
पर्यटननिदेशालय
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM
पोर्टब्लेयर
Port Blair

Report No.:.....

Date: _____

INSPECTION REPORT FOR PARASAILING OPERATIONS

Date & Place of
Inspection : _____

A. Boat Owner's Profile

Name of the firm &
address : _____

Reg. No. of the firm : _____

Nature of ownership : _____

Owners' name &
address : _____

Year starting
operations : _____

Designated area of
Operation : _____

Parasailing boats held : _____

B. Has inspection been carried out last year :

C. Boat Registration Details

Regn. No.	Engine			Operating Type	Insurance till
	Type	Make	Year & Sr. No.		

D. NIWS certified boat operator(s) operators / owners

Sr. No	Name	Cert. No	Valid till
1			

E. Essential Equipments & Documentation

Condition of Parachutes (Size: 28"/30"/32"/34"/36")	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Condition of harness	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Condition of Rope for parasailing	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Condition of Winch unit	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Light Helmets (----- nos.)	Yes	No
Wind Meter (Make, Sl. No.).....	Yes	No
Log book (Entry to be maintained regularly)	Yes	No
Rectangular rescue tube or lifebuoys (..... nos.)	Yes	No
First aid Kit	Yes	No
Registered Lifejackets- for parasailing (.....nos.)	Yes	No
(Name of the boat owner to be printed on its back as per stipulation)		
Lifebuoys	Yes	No
Fire Extinguisher	Yes	No
Fire bucket with lanyard	Yes	No
Designated Mobile on-board	Yes	No
Anchor with 30 meters of rope	Yes	No
Rescue Boat	Yes	No

F. Any Other Watersports Equipment(s) Held by the boat owner

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Speedboat		Banana tube	
Ring/Bumper		Magic Ski	
Jet-Ski (PWC)		Water ski	
Cruise boat		Any other item	

G. Whether the Firm issued uniform to Watersport operators? :

H. Whether No Objection Certificate has been obtained from Harbour Master, Port Management Board for Parasailing operations? :

The Boat has been inspected for its preparedness for Parasailing operations as per guidelines of Water Sports Activities, of Directorate of Tourism, Andaman& Nicobar Administration;

RECOMMENDED for operation of Parasailing subject to the following:

1. The firm shall agree to adhere to the instructions as annexed at Annexure – II herewith.
2. Operation of leisure-watersporting crafts in any form is strictly prohibited during South-West monsoon period, i.e. 01st, May to 30th, September or as stipulated by respective authorities every year.
3. The area (beach) of operations shall strictly be as designated by Harbour Master, Port Management Board for the said purpose.
4. The operation shall be carried out strictly in QUEUE System as directed by the Harbour Master, Port Management Board.

This report will be valid till i.e. expiry of the recommendation of the Harbour Master, Port Management Board.

Inspected by: _____

Date: _____

(Issuing Authority)

Parasail Boat Operators Log											
Name of the Water Sports Centre/firm:				Location of Operation						Page No.	
Name of the Proprietor:				Name of the Operators certified by NIWS / authorized agency							
Name of the Parasailing Boat& Reg. No.											
Date	Name of Operator	Engine OBM HP	Wind Speed	Time boat taken out	Time boat brought in	No. of Clients on Chute	Rate charged	Guest Names & Contact Nos.	Remarks & Signature	Boat Operators Sign	In-charge WSP Centre Sign

Instructions for the Parasailing Operations

1. Inspection and Certification for safety preparedness of the Boat owner for watersports operations is mandatory and to be undertaken before commencement of operations every year. In its absence, NO subsequent inspection shall be carried out unless necessary declarations and undertaking are furnished thereof to this effect.
2. A check list on operational requirement should be prepared and check should be carried out during pre-launch and at the time of securing the parasailing unit.
3. It is mandatory to record every flight in the Log book and the same is required to be produced to the authorities as and when called for.
4. Boat owner name shall be inscribed on the PFDs (life jacket) in print format used for operations.
5. Boat ownership & registration details like owner's name, Tel. no., Boat owner name, passenger capacity etc. should be written at prominent place inside the boats.
6. Operators should be fully made to refresh the procedure of Parasail operations regularly.
7. Parachute, harness and related gadgets shall be maintained properly.
8. It is advised to diligently follow the Safety Norms framed from time to time for watersports.
9. The boat owner must ensure that Parasailing operations is handled by a duly certified, adequately experienced and valid License Holder only. During the entire period of operations, a qualified person with adequate experience in Life Saving and boat handling should be posted in the boat as Look-out/Supervisor/Observer, near the winch/appropriate location, for monitoring the movement of the Parachute and timely appraisal to the Master operator.
10. Under no circumstances shall the operator & crew utilize any equipment outside the parameters for which it was designed & must at all times adhere to manufacturers' specifications.
11. Parachutes of different sizes as prescribed for operations during different wind-speed conditions- low, moderate and high- must be kept onboard all the time and to be used accordingly. The size of parachute should be appropriate for the prevailing wind condition. The Harness must also be of high quality consisting of a lower back and seat strap, leg straps and adjustable waist strap with clips.
12. All equipments, Parachute, gear, harness, winch and its motor must be in good condition and to be examined every day before and after operations.
13. The boat owner must maintain a daily logging of the equipments, containing inspection details, items to be taken onboard etc.
14. Annual Inspection the boat and equipments/gears must be carried out through the Manufacturer/Its Agent/Appropriately experienced person for such inspection every year. A written report on the same must be submitted at the time of application for renewal of registration.
15. The safe working load of the rope should be as specified by the manufacturer or a minimum breaking stain of 3000 kg. It must be replaced after 400 flights or four months after the first use or as specified by manufacturer, whichever is earlier.

16. The Boat owner shall assess the prevailing weather conditions- wind-speed, wind direction, condition of the sea (swell/turbulence), rain, fog and visibility- and carryout operations only if it is absolutely safe.
 17. The Boat owner shall diligently follow the procedure of pre-flight briefing to all guests on probable risks, clothing, safety briefing and so on.
 18. The Boat owner shall allow only such number of riders as permitted by the manufacturer on a single chute at a time.
 19. The rides must be carried out only from the designated location as stated in the NOC from Harbour Master, Port Management Board.
 20. Parasailing operations must be stopped whenever the wind speed exceeds 18 km/ hour (10 kn./hour) at sea level.
 21. The Boat owner shall note that the equipments as listed in this report are essential in nature, and all of these must be made available onboard during the entire period of operations.
 22. It shall be the responsibility of the Boat Owner/Operators/Master and look out to ensure that all safety norms are strictly adhered to and the parasailing operations carried as per these guidelines, failing which he/she shall be held solely responsible for any accident / incident.
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