RCD Consultees

DIRECTIVE 2003/44/EC AMENDING THE RECREATIONAL CRAFT DIRECTIVE 94/25/EC – IMPLEMENTATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Issue

We are seeking your comments on the proposed changes to the Recreational Craft Regulations 1996, following the adoption of the above amending Directive 2003/44/EC.

We are seeking your views in particular on the best, clearest way to implement the Directive in the UK. We would welcome your views on the questions listed in the Consultation Document.

We are not seeking your views on the content of the Directive. The Directive was agreed by Ministers and the European Parliament on 16 June 2003. This followed a long period of consultation in the UK and negotiations in Brussels.

The Department is also seeking your views on the Regulatory Impact Assessment, attached as a separate Annex to the Consultation Document, for the purposes of this exercise.

A copy of the Consultation Document, comprising the draft Regulations, a summary highlighting the main changes, existing legislation and draft
final Regulatory Impact Assessment, can be found on the STRD website at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/strd/recreat.html

Background

The main objectives of the amending Directive are:

- to remove technical barriers to trade between Member States by harmonising some further requirements for recreational craft and to include, for the first time, personal watercraft ("jet skis") within the design and construction requirements
- to protect the health and well-being of citizens

The proposed changes apply to recreational craft measuring between 2.5 and 24 metres in hull length, intended for sport and leisure purposes, and to personal watercraft and engines at the time they are placed on the market for the first time. They will apply also to existing craft and engines that undergo major modifications and conversions. However, it is important to note that the provisions of the Directive will only apply from 1 January 2005 ie craft and engines already in use on that date will not be affected. There is also no requirement in this Directive for checking noise or exhaust emission once the craft or engine is in use.

The main changes are:

- to limit engine emissions of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides and, in the case of diesel engines, particulates
- to limit the noise from recreational craft and personal water craft
- other detailed revisions of the Directive such as a system to allow used craft imported from outside the EU/EEA to be brought into conformity

The Consultation period will run from 8 December 2003 until 8 March 2004.
Please respond by letter or email to:

Mrs Neeroo Girdharee
STRD 4
Department of Trade and Industry
Bay 324
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 9SS

Email: neeroo.girdharee@dti.gsi.gov.uk

When responding please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of a larger organisation, please make it clear which organisation you represent.

Many Thanks,

Yours faithfully

Angela Finch
Senior Directive Negotiator