



Use of Marine Safety Signs in Queensland

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Document Approver:	Paul G Brandenburg
Position:	Principal Manager (Vessel Traffic Management)
Contact Officer:	Andy C Bell
Document Owner:	Andy C Bell
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Document History

Date	Action (approve/review)	Details of action
17/02/2014	Original version	Establishment of Standard by Maritime Services
11/03/2014	Amendment	Changes following consultation: Change of "marine signs" to "marine safety signs" to differentiate from other waterways signs Addition of para. 1.3 Addition of reference to GCWA in para. 2.1 Addition of para. 2.6 Change 4.1.3 to clarify endorsement and approval process for "marine safety" signs Changed 5.1.4 to incorporate cost recovery from third parties

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), the State maritime safety regulator, is committed to the safe movement of commercial and recreational vessels in Queensland ports and coastal waters.
- 1.2 MSQ applies marine safety strategies and undertakes enforcement activities to ensure the safety of all waterway users and to minimise the risk of injury and marine incidents and ship-sourced pollution of Queensland waters.
- 1.3 In Gold Coast waters, MSQ works in cooperation with the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, under the provisions of a Service Agreement between the two organisations.
- 1.4 MSQ establishes marine safety strategies in line with the legislative requirements of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* and the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004*.

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2.0 Purpose and scope of this standard

- 2.1 The purpose of this document is to ensure:
- all MSQ regions and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority utilise a consistent and standard system of marine safety signs that have been approved by MSQ for use in Queensland waters
 - the use of standardised marine safety signs to generate appropriate behaviours by vessel operators and to enhance the safety of vessel movements in Queensland waters.
- 2.2 This standard supports MSQ's policy on vessel traffic management in Queensland waters.
- 2.3 This standard and related documents support MSQ's Key Outcomes by ensuring the safety of mariners and vessel movements and the protection of the marine environment from ship-sourced pollution.
- 2.4 This standard applies to all MSQ and Gold Coast Waterways Authority units engaged in the establishment and management of marine safety signs that are approved by MSQ for use in Queensland waters.
- 2.5 This standard applies to all marine safety signs that are manufactured on or after the date of initial approval of this standard. Existing marine safety signs generally consistent with the approved marine signs do not need to be replaced, unless those existing signs have reached the end of their service life.
- 2.6 To avoid undue wastage, existing stocks of relevant marine safety signs can still be used, at the discretion of the relevant Regional Harbour Master or the CEO, GCWA, as appropriate.
- 2.7 This standard applies to all marine safety signs established in Queensland, whether by Maritime Safety Queensland, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, in accordance with the Service Agreement with MSQ, or by a third party endorsed by the relevant Regional Harbour Master.

3.0 Definitions

Terms, abbreviations and acronyms	Meaning
GCWA	Gold Coast Waterways Authority
General Manager	The General Manager of Maritime Safety Queensland as provided by the <i>Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994</i> .
Information Sign	A sign to inform vessel operators of matters relevant to the safe operation of vessels within a particular area of the waterway.
MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland
Prohibition	A gazette notice that prohibits where anchoring, berthing, mooring or operating vessels, or conducting an activity would endanger marine safety (eg water skiing).
RHM/AHM	Regional Harbour Master/Assistant Harbour Master
Regulatory Sign	A sign that regulates the operations and movements of vessel traffic by indicating when or where a legal requirement applies.
Ship (Vessel)	A ship is any kind of boat or other vessel used, or intended to be used, in navigation by water or for any other purpose

	on water.
Third party	A party other than MSQ or the GCWA
TMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads
VTM	Vessel Traffic Management
Warning Sign	A sign that warns vessel operators of potential hazardous conditions on a waterway, or conditions that require caution and prudent seamanship.

4.0 Standard

- 4.1.1 All MSQ approved marine safety signs must align with design standards for TMR signs, and where necessary, be consistent with relevant Australian standards for the design and application of water marine safety signs.
- 4.1.2 All regulatory signs established by MSQ must, where applicable, be consistent with the relevant provision of legislation or the relevant gazette notice.

Please refer to:

Speed limits (Maritime Safety Queensland) to view current gazette notices for speed limits, and
Restricted areas (Maritime Safety Queensland) for current prohibitions.

- 4.1.3 All requests for new marine safety signs, as defined above, must be submitted through the local MSQ office for endorsement by the Executive Director (Maritime Services) and approval by the General Manager, MSQ.
- 4.1.4 The catalogue of approved marine safety signs is attached to this standard.

5.0 Establishing marine safety signs

- 5.1.1 The establishment of MSQ approved marine signs in Queensland waters should be determined by operational and legislative requirements and take into consideration their impact on marine and public safety
- 5.1.2 As marine signs are intended to provide lawful directions, safety warnings or navigational safety advice they should be used sparingly and positioned at strategic locations to provide maximum exposure to vessel operators and other waterway users.
- 5.1.3 MSQ and GCWA officers should be mindful of their management and maintenance responsibilities and ensure that all signs are compliant with the approved design standards.
- 5.1.4 All costs associated with the procurement, establishment, replacement and withdrawal of marine safety signs will be the responsibility of the relevant MSQ region. When such actions are undertaken by MSQ for a third party, MSQ will recover costs from the third party.
- 5.1.5 Wherever possible, MSQ regions and the GCWA should ensure that 3rd party marine safety signs are compliant with the approved design standards and relevant to their application.

6.0 Maintaining marine safety signs

- 6.1.1 All marine safety signs must be inspected and maintained in accordance with the MSQ Standard - Maintaining the Service Potential of AtoN (MAR3mh4)
- 6.1.2 Asset and servicing details must be entered and recorded in the ANAMS database at each inspection and/or servicing interval.
- 6.1.3 MSQ regions and the GCWA must ensure that the marine safety signs continue to meet user requirements and are fit for purpose.

7.0 Relevant Documents and /or References

The current Maritime Safety Queensland Key Outcomes

MSQ Policy - Vessel Traffic Management (MAR1273sh7)

MSQ Standard - Marine Speed Limits in Queensland Waters (MAR1304sh7)

MSQ Standard - Maintaining Service Potential of AtoN (MAR3mh4)

TMR Register of MSQ endorsed and approved marine signs

Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994

<http://legislation.govnet.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TranstOpMSA94.pdf>

Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TranstOpMSyR04.pdf>

8.0 Stakeholders

Stakeholder Area	Stakeholder Representative	Responsibility
MSQ	General Manager	Delivery of MSQ Services
Maritime Services	Executive Director	Develop and maintain policies, standards, guidelines and procedures relating to MSQ's AtoN & VTM systems.
MSQ Regions	Regional Harbour Master	Delivery of an accurate and reliable system of AtoN in accordance with MSQ policy requirements



Attachments -> Catalogue of Approved Marine Safety Signs_March 2014.pdf



Catalogue of Approved Marine Safety Signs_March 2014.pdf

