

PFA SUCCESSFUL IN EXEMPTION FOR GAS COOKERS ON NSW COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

Early last year, you may recall that we notified our members of issues with the certification requirements for your gas cookers. That the NSW Department of Fair Trading required that we have an accredited Type B Gas Certifier approve all gas cookers on board all commercial fishing vessels – with only 2 companies in NSW able to certify. The PFA met with Department of Fair Trading, Minister Kean and Coffs Harbour Member of Parliament Andrew Fraser and the Australian Maritime and Safety Authority to address the issues and seek exemption due to the expense and time requirements for such accreditation.

After numerous meetings and exchanges with the PFA, the NSW Department of Fair Trading has advised that **we are exempt from their requirements**. Specially, that they have amended the regulations and, effective from 1 January 2019, that gas installations and appliances are to comply with Australian standards stated in Part 10, clause 39 of the Regulation. The clause references AS/NZS 5601.2.2013, LP Gas installation in caravans and boats for non-propulsive purposes. That have stated that:

I refer you to Section 1.3 *Exclusion*

This Standard does not apply to –

- (a) installations covered by statutory requirements such as the New Zealand Maritime Transport Act 1994 and the Australian Uniform Shipping Laws Code'*

As you are aware, the Australian Uniform Shipping Laws Code has been superseded by the National Standard for Commercial Vessels.

Therefore, the certification of an installation of a gas prawn cooker(s) on a commercial vessels is not a requirement under the *Gas and Electricity (Consumer Safety) Act & Regulation*.

This is a great success in ensuring that a reasonable approach is taken to safety. Without this exemption those with Gas Cookers would have been prevented from operating without a difficult and expensive accreditation process.

This will NOT exclude you from AMSA's safety requirements of maintaining and operating a safe vessel under Marine Orders 504. You still have responsibility to ensure that your gas cooker is safe – that is, that it is installed correctly, fit for purpose, and has been risk assessed.

Make sure that you include this advice in your SMS so that it is documented for any surveyors etc.

TRANSFER OF QUOTA

If you are intending on purchasing or selling quota - you can **NOT** have any outstanding debt to Fisheries! You can discuss possible payment plans, but you must make these arrangements with the Fisheries Business Services. Call them on 1300 720 662.

SEAFOOD PROMOTION GRANTS

If you need help in putting together a grant application for the NSW Supporting Seafood Futures Program please contact the PFA – only too happy to help. Grant ideas:

- Seafood festival for your local area or pop-up events like a seafood BBQ,
- Regatta or Blessing of the Fleet

The PFA is putting together an information guide for members to use in putting together to organise a seafood celebration event.

Please note:

- There are 2 rounds of grant funding worth \$500,000 each
- The funding is to be met dollar for dollar (in other words you must pay for 50% of the costs and the fund will pay the remaining 50%). “in-kind” support is not considered as part of the 50%.
- The 1st round of funds must be spent in this financial year – applications due on 25th February
- The 2nd round of funding must be spent in the next financial year – applications due on 5th August.
- Unspent funds from the 1st round will NOT be added to the 2nd round.

AMSA - float-free EPIRB consultation

AMSA is seeking feedback on alternative options to carrying a float-free EPIRB on domestic commercial vessels **less than 7.5 metres long without level flotation, operating in [offshore or restricted offshore](#) waters**. It may not be practical or feasible to carry of float-free EPIRB on these kind of vessels and have proposed several alternative options. AMSA would also like feedback on any other alternative options that operators consider will achieve an equivalent or acceptable level of safety. The options proposed include:

- Option 1: carry a float-free EPIRB (no alternative)
- Option 2: wear a personal locator beacon (PLB), in addition to carrying a manually activating EPIRB
- Option 3: carry a manually activating EPIRB and wear a lifejacket
- Option 4: carry a manually active ting EPIRB in a buoyant storage device

The consultation is open until Thursday 28 February 2019.

NATIONAL TRACEABILITY FRAMEWORK

The Australian Government is developing a National Traceability Framework to:

- enhance Australia's agricultural traceability systems
- improve competitiveness
- provide assurance for customers both domestically and abroad.

Australia has a reputation for exporting safe products that meet importing country requirements and producing safe food for domestic supply. Traceability systems strengthen Australia's reputation for delivering high quality, clean, green, safe food. The Government is looking at further enhancing the integrity of the systems. You can now provide feedback on the principles which will shape the National Traceability Framework.

[Submit your feedback online](#)

Take the survey on Principles for the National Traceability Framework or make a submission now. You will need to register or sign in to participate in the survey.

Before you take the survey or make a submission:

- read the set of [draft principles for the National Traceability Framework PDF](#) (216 KB)

- read the [Enhancing Australia's systems for tracing agricultural production and products report PDF](#) (926 KB)
- familiarise yourself with the [National Traceability Project webpage](#)(External link)

[Submit feedback online](#)

The following advice has been provided directly by the DPI for the PFA. We intend to constantly have this direct communication from DPI available to our members as we believe it is important to have these DPI statements or reminders. If you have questions re the info please contact DPI directly.

MESSAGE FROM NSW DPI FISHERIES

Prawn draws - Prawn Net (Set Pocket) Determination Guidelines (No. 2) 2018

The Prawn Net (Set Pocket) Determination Guidelines 2018 have been amended to provide continuation of two historical practices raised post consultation. The changes fit within the intent of the new arrangements under the Estuary General Prawning Share Linkage and will assist the transition to industry ownership and running of draws from around February 2019.

The changes allow:

- An additional option to allocate sites on a rotational order once an initial set of numbers has been drawn, for waters other than the Clarence and Myall Rivers,
- The draw organiser to determine that endorsement holders may move up to unattended sites for Tamboy backup in the Myall River and waters other than the Clarence River.

Amended guidelines and fact sheets will be available on the DPI website in early January.

Commercial Fisheries hotline - 1300 726 488

The content of this update is provided for information purposes only. The information on these updates are provided on the basis that all persons accessing the information undertake their own responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of it.