

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET

021104

Recreational Craft Directive
UK Regulations SI 1996 No 1353 & SI 2004 No 1464
The status of Craft and Products before and after 1st January 2005

In order to clarify the position of existing craft and products in stock when the amending directive (2003/44/EC) comes into force the DTI have produced an explanatory note¹.

Products placed on the market² before 1st January 2005 will be CE marked to the existing directive, or may not be marked at all if placed on the market before 16th June 1998.

Therefore products already placed on the market will never have to comply with the amending directive even if modified or converted. When the transitional periods* have ended, an existing craft if fitted with a new engine would not be required to comply with the noise emissions, only the engine would be required to comply with the exhaust emissions.³

Part completed boats and ‘sailaways’⁴ if placed on the market and fitted with an engine before the transitional period ends would not require to comply with the exhaust emissions, however when the same boat is completed and subsequently put into service after that time, then the essential requirements that were not originally covered, including noise, would have to be complied with.

Products placed on the market and /or put into service on or after 1st January 2005 have an option as to compliance with the amending directive depending upon product type.

Engines that are subject to ‘major engine modification’⁵ or craft that are subject to ‘major craft conversion’⁶ are only required to comply with the amending directive if originally placed on the market between the 1st January 2005 and 1st January 2007 on a voluntary basis and originally declared in compliance with the amending directive. From 1 January 2007 the provisions of the amending directive become mandatory.

¹This information sheet is based upon that explanatory note and is not intended to be a reproduction.

²Placing on the market is considered to take place when transferred from manufacturing to distribution. This can be a physical handover or transfer of ownership. Thus craft or products in stock and available for sale are deemed to be already on the market.

³ See TIS 040904 for exemptions.

⁴This information sheet does not include the application of the directive to DIY boats.

⁵Major engine modification means a modification of an engine which could cause the engine to exceed the exceed the emission limits as set out in the directive, or increase the rated power by more than 15%.

⁶Major craft conversion means a conversion of a craft which changes the means of propulsion, or involves a major engine change, or alters the craft to such an extent that it is considered a new craft.

*See TIS 010904 for details of engines in stock and transitional period.

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