

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Safety measures during embarkation and disembarkation in inland water vessels are crucial to prevent accidents and ensuring passengers' well-being. This is important not only for ferry services but also in case of vessel operations for tourism purposes. Here are some essential safety measures are:

Safe access: Ensure proper access to jetties, such as gangways, ramps, or pontoon bridges, to board and disembark safely. These access points should be non-slip and have suitable handrails and barricaded.

Crowd management: Control the flow of passengers during embarkation and disembarkation to ensure no overcrowding occurs. This might involve limiting access to the access points and having crew members guide passengers during peak times.

Adequate lighting for night operation: Proper lighting should be installed to ensure passengers can see clearly and move safely during boarding or leaving the vessel.

Information and signage: Clear signs and instructions should be displayed at boarding points and on the vessel to guide passengers about safety procedures and the correct paths for boarding and disembarking. This exercise should be done through FLS (where available in the ghat site) or PA system.

Personal flotation devices (PFDs): Make personal flotation devices readily available for passengers, and encourage them to wear PFDs during boarding and disembarkation, especially if the conditions make it necessary.

Life-saving equipment: Ensure that life-saving equipment, such as life jackets, lifebuoys, and rescue boats, is available and easily accessible in case of an emergency.

Crew training: Crew members should be well-trained in safety procedures during embarkation and disembarkation, including assisting passengers with disabilities, performing rescues, and handling emergencies.


Weather monitoring: Keep a close watch on the weather conditions and be prepared to halt embarkation or disembarkation processes if the weather deteriorates or poses a risk to passenger safety.

Communication: Establish clear communication between the vessel's captain, crew, and shore personnel to coordinate safe embarkation and disembarkation operations.

Emergency preparedness: Have an emergency response plan in place for any unforeseen situations, such as water rescue or medical emergencies.

By implementing these safety measures, inland water vessels can offer passengers a secure environment during embarkation and disembarkation and reduce the potential for accidents and injuries.

Authorities permitting ferry operations from various Ghats of the inland waterways in the state shall keep strict monitoring of compliance of above measures and report any non compliance for legal action against defaulters.

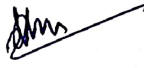

Chairperson
Assam IWT Regulatory Authority
Ulubari, Guwahati-7

Date 19/5/2023

Memo No. RA/AIWT/4/2019/495-A

Copy to:

1. PS to Minister, Transport Department, Government of Assam Dispur, for information.
2. The Secretary, to the Government of Assam, Transport Department, Dispur Guwahati-6, for information.
3. The State Project Director, AIWTD Society, Ulubari, Guwahati-7, for information and necessary action.
4. The Director, IWT, Assam, Ulubari, Guwahati-7, for information and necessary action. He shall ensure wide publicity.
5. ALL DC's, for information and necessary action.
6. ALL Superintendents of Police, for information and necessary action.
7. All the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishads, for information and necessary action.
8. The Principal Secretaries of all autonomous District Councils for information and necessary action.


Chairperson
Assam IWT Regulatory Authority
Ulubari, Guwahati-7