

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sudden adverse weather conditions are very common phenomenon in the state of Assam. Weather-based safety measures in inland water transport are, therefore, essential to ensure the safety of passengers, crew members, cargo, and the vessel itself. These measures help in reducing the risk of accidents and damage due to adverse weather conditions. Some of the common weather-based safety measures to be implemented by the agencies permitting vessel operation from the designated Ghats and in the declared routes in the Inland waterways of the state include:

Accurate weather forecasting: Vessel operators should have access to up-to-date and accurate weather forecasts for their intended route. This information is crucial to plan the voyage and make appropriate adjustments if necessary.

Monitoring weather conditions: It is essential for vessel operators and crew to continuously monitor the weather conditions throughout the journey. This will allow them to take timely actions if there is any change in the forecasted weather or in case of unexpected weather developments.

Weather-based routing: In some cases, it might be necessary for vessels to alter their course or reschedule the voyage to avoid adverse weather conditions. This may involve adjusting the planned route, anchoring at a safe location, or waiting for the weather to improve.

Storm avoidance: Vessels should avoid navigating during storms, hurricanes, or other extreme weather events. In situations where safe harbour is not accessible or practical, following storm avoidance procedures and guidelines, such as adjusting course and reducing speed, can minimize the risk of damage to the vessel and ensure the safety of the passengers and crew.

Vessel stability considerations: Before starting the voyage, vessel operators need to ensure that the vessel has appropriate stability during various weather conditions. Proper loading and stowage of cargo, adequate ballast, and watertight integrity are crucial factors in maintaining vessel stability during adverse weather.

Navigational aids: Ensuring that the vessel is equipped with functioning and up-to-date navigational aids such as GPS, radar, and electronic chart systems can assist in navigating safely through challenging weather conditions.

Training and preparedness: Crew members should be well-trained to respond to various weather-related emergencies. They must be familiar with emergency procedures like securing equipment, providing assistance to passengers, and handling navigation equipment during adverse weather conditions.

Communications: Maintaining effective communication with relevant authorities, such as NDRF, SDRF can be crucial in receiving timely weather updates and assistance in case of emergencies.

Safe operating procedures: Vessel operators should follow safe operating procedures during adverse weather conditions, including maintaining a safe speed, keeping a proper lookout, and securing all equipment on board.

By making arrangement for implementing these weather-based safety measures, vessel operators can minimize the risks associated with poor weather conditions and ensure the safety of passengers, crew, and cargo during inland water transport.

Maintaining State of the art command and control centre and establishing communication with all operators for providing support during adverse weather conditions should be ensured by the agencies permitting vessel operation from the designated Ghats and in the declared routes in the Inland waterways of the state.



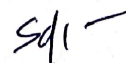
**Chairperson
Assam IWT Regulatory Authority
Ulubari, Guwahati-7**

Memo No.RA/AIWT/4/2019 /494-A

Date 20/5/2023

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**

