

23. HIGH SPEED CRAFT

Source: Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Former Notice 23/04 is cancelled. Additions and amendments to the former notice are indicated by sidelines.

1. The definition of High Speed Craft (HSC) is given in the IMO International Code of Safety for High Speed Craft (the HSC Code). Speed alone is not the criterion for classification as an HSC; it is a combination of displacement and operating speed.
2. The number and size of HSC have continued to grow in recent years. HSC are generally engaged on a fixed route, carrying passengers, cars and, in some cases freight. They proceed at speeds faster than other commercial and leisure vessels (see the table below).
3. HSC carry no special identification signals and have no special privileges or obligations in the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (1972) with later amendments. However, they represent a potential new hazard in the areas where they have recently commenced operations. Their speed may potentially accelerate hazardous situations and bring risk of collision from unexpected directions. Reports have also been received that some HSC generate a significant shallow water wave effect as they accelerate or decelerate in the approaches to ports or when they alter course. This can have a serious impact on small craft and their moorings, close to the shore and on shallow off-lying banks.
4. In the United Kingdom, the lead authority on all matters relating to HSC is:
Shipping Safety Branch,
The Maritime and Coastguard Agency,
Spring Place,
105 Commercial Road,
Southampton,
SO15 1EG.
5. The list below gives details of high speed craft operating in UK waters (correct to 1 November 2004):
Note that vessels may be moved between routes for operational purposes.

<i>Craft name</i>	<i>Type*</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Passengers/cars</i>	<i>Maximum Speed (knots)</i>	<i>Area of operation</i>
English Channel and Dover Strait					
Condor 10	WPC	75	574	35	Poole – Weymouth – Channel Islands – St Malo – Cherbourg
Condor Express	WPC	86	775/200	40	Poole – Channel Islands
Condor Vitesse	WPC	86	800/200	40	Weymouth – Channel Islands
Diamant	WPC	81	654/150	37	Dover – Calais (Winter) Dover – Ostende (Summer)
Seacat Scotland	WPC	74	450/85	35	Dover - Calais
Stena Discovery	SWATH	120	1500/360	40	Harwich – Hoek van Holland
Speed One	WPC		570		Dover – Boulogne Dover - Calais
Emeraude GB (ex-Hoverspeed Great Britain)	WPC	74	430	35	St Helier – St Malo
Portsmouth Express †	WPC	82	800/175	38	Cairnryan – Larne/Troon
West Coast of England, Wales and Scotland and the Irish Sea					
GH 2133	Hover	12.7	12	35	River Clyde 2 miles east of Dumbarton
Adamant	SWATH	30.7	40	28	Greenock and Faslane
SuperSeacat I	Mono	100	783/170	38	Belfast – Troon
Jonathan Swift	SWATH	87	768/200	40	Dun Laoghaire – Dublin – Holyhead
SeaCat Isle of Man †	WPC	74	516/85	35	Liverpool – Dublin – Isle of Man – Belfast – Heysham

<i>Craft name</i>	<i>Type*</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Passengers/cars</i>	<i>Maximum Speed (knots)</i>	<i>Area of operation</i>
Stena Lynx III / Elite †	WPC	81	627/84	37	Fishguard – Rosslare
Stena Explorer	SWATH	120	1500/360	40	Holyhead – Dun Laoghaire
Stena Voyager	SWATH	120	1500/360	40	Stranraer – Belfast Holyhead - Dunlaoghaire
SuperSeaCat II †	Mono	100	782/170	38	Liverpool – Douglas - Dublin
SuperSeaCat III †	Mono	100	782/170	38	Liverpool – Dublin – Isle of Man
Solent and Isle of Wight					
Our Lady Patricia / Our Lady Pamela	Cat	30	440	31	Portsmouth – Isle of Wight
Fastcat Shanklin	Cat	30	361	30	Portsmouth – Isle of Wight
Fastcat Ryde	Cat	31.5	361	34	Portsmouth – Isle of Wight
Red Jet I / Red Jet II	Cat	31.5	138	34	Southampton – Cowes, Isle of Wight
Red Jet III	Cat	32.9	190	33	Southampton – Cowes, Isle of Wight
Red Jet IV	Cat	39	190	35	Southampton – Cowes, Isle of Wight
Double O Seven / Freedom 90 / Idun Viking	Hover	24.4	98	45	Southsea – Shanklin – Ryde, Isle of Wight
Island Express	Hover	30	98		Southsea – Shanklin – Ryde, Isle of Wight
Vessels currently laid up					
SeaCat France	WPC	74	450/85	35	
Shearwater 5	Hydrofoil	22	67	35	

Note: In addition to their normal routes:

Red Jet I, II, III, & IV run a summer only route from Southampton to Poole from 1 April 2005 to October 2005.

Island Express, Freedom 90, Fastcat Ryde and Fastcat Shanklin run a summer only route from Portsmouth to Poole.

- * Cat = Catamaran
 Hover = Hovercraft
 Mono = Monohull
 SWATH = Small Water-plane Area Twin Hull
 WPC = Wave Piercing Catamaran

† Summer only

\$ New service potentially starting. This will be a summer route only.