



Professional Association of Parasail Operators

**2005
OPERATING
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES
(OSAG)**

All PAPO MEMBERS
shall agree to adhere to OSAG guidelines
while conducting commercial parasail operations. Failure to comply with the
following guidelines may result in immediate suspension or cancellation of
your membership.

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SECTION ONE GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

OSAG REG-01. REGULATION ADHERENCE.

All PAPO members shall at all times while engaged in commercial parasailing operations comply with all adopted Operating Standards and Guidelines (OSAG) guidelines, unless a special circumstance preclusion waiver has been issued.

OSAG -02. CITY, STATE AND FEDERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.

All operators are required to abide by all applicable local, state, and federal laws, which may include FAA and USCG requirements. Current guidelines are in addition to existing State and Federal Rules governing safe boating practices.

OSAG- 03. OPERATOR CLASSIFICATION.

All member operators shall be designated and/or defined as class one operators.

CLASS ONE OPERATOR DEFINITION.

1. Operators which do not exceed an operational towline length of 800 feet.
2. Operators which do not exceed two passengers in a canopy at any time while conducting multi-passenger flight operations.

OSAG -04. ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER.

Without exception, all operators shall require ALL PASSENGERS of legal age or if a minor; a parent or legal guardian to read and sign an assumption of risk and release of liability waiver prior to boarding the vessel.

OSAG -05. CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY OF VESSEL SEAWORTHINESS.

It shall be the responsibility of the captain in charge to make certain that the vessel is maintained and is properly equipped in a seaworthy condition. A current written log shall be kept of all mandatory daily inspections and all routine maintenance performed on vessel. Under no circumstances shall the operator and/or crew utilize any equipment outside the parameters for which it was designed and must at all times adhere to manufacturers' specifications and/or recommendations.

Seaworthy means properly constructed, suitably prepared, competently manned (a captain and crew of good character and nautical skill), properly laden, sufficiently strong, staunch and competently equipped with appropriate appurtenances to allow it to safely engage in the trade and voyage intended.

OSAG -06. VESSEL WINCH SYSTEM USE REQUIREMENTS.

Only direct launch and recovery winch systems shall be permitted and must be utilized for both launch and recovery of flight passengers at all times while engaged in parasailing operations.

OSAG -07. TOWLINE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE.

Towline in its entirety shall be inspected daily for damage and/or wear and if necessary shall be immediately replaced.

1. A minimum of 2' shall be trimmed from towlines bitter end within a maximum period of 7 days, every 400 flights or as may become necessary.
2. Towline shall be kept clean and well maintained in accordance with manufacturers' specifications, requirements and/or recommendations.
3. A written log of such inspections and maintenance shall be kept at all times.

OSAG -08. PROXIMITY TO SHORELINE.

Operator shall at all times maintain a minimum operating distance from any surf-zone, shoreline, or fixed object, of not less than 500'. In addition, at no time shall a parasail vessel's operator allow a canopy to pass within the following distance from the shore while an onshore wind is present. (Onshore wind shall be defined as any wind direction that could potentially place parasail vessel, canopy, or participant in contact with land in the event of the loss of vessel or systems power and/or line separation.)

1. 0-10 mph wind = 1 times the towline length.
2. 11-15 mph wind= 2 times the towline length.
3. 16-20 mph wind= 3 times the towline length.

OSAG -09. BANNER PLANES AND AIRCRAFT.

Operator must at all times adhere to all applicable FAA rules and regulations.

1. Operator shall be prepared to yield the right-of-way to aircraft.
2. Operator shall not assume that any aircraft pilot is aware of his/her position and shall at all times attempt to maintain a minimum distance of 500 feet from all aircraft, their banners and towlines.
3. Operator shall be prepared to immediately reduce altitude and/or steer clear of any aircraft that may appear to be following the same flight path.

OSAG -10. TOWLINE LENGTH LIMITATIONS.

At no time shall any vessel's winch drum be equipped with more than:

1. 1,200 feet of towline while conducting parasail flight operations or:
2. Exceed 800' of towline from boat to canopy yoke while conducting parasail flight operations or:
3. Exceed a maximum AGL (Above Ground Level) of 500', or as required by FAA.

OSAG-11. IN-FLIGHT FLOATATION DEVICES.

At all times passengers participating in parasailing activities (while in flight) shall wear a properly fitted USCG approved type I, II, or III life jacket.

OSAG -12. PASSENGER WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

At no time shall a passenger be allowed to participate in parasailing activities unless they meet the following requirements and only after the captain has made reasonable prior judgment that passenger payload, equipment, wind and sea conditions are conducive and are in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

1. Minimum passenger payload of 90 pounds.
2. Maximum passenger payload of 450 pounds.
3. Passenger must be able to be comfortably and safely fitted into harness.

OSAG -13. PASSENGER SAFETY BRIEFING.

Prior to leaving the dock, all passengers and parasail participants shall be required to view a Parasail Safety Briefing video and/or be given a written Parasail Safety Briefing handout. In addition, the crew shall give a pre-flight verbal summary of the briefing before any parasail flight activities commence. (Briefing materials should be approved by or obtained through PAPO).

It shall be the captain's responsibility to ensure that the pre-flight safety briefing captured the undivided attention of all passengers, and that it was instructive, informative, and clearly understood by all participants, and shall contain the following information.

1. A description of the activity itself.
2. Safety precautions while underway and in flight.
3. Safety and life saving equipment locations.
4. Warnings and Procedure for unexpected events such as water landings, equipment malfunctions, and towline separation.
5. Procedure in the event of an emergency onboard the vessel.
6. The proper use of signals.
7. Question and answer period.
9. Preclusion of any passenger or participant that may be afraid or intimidated prior to participation.

OSAG -14. DIPPING.

Toe dipping may only be conducted under the following conditions and guidelines and only after the captain has made reasonable prior judgment to his or her ability to control such an activity:

1. Only when wind and sea conditions are conducive to such activities.
2. Deliberate dipping above the ankles or allowing a participant to touch the water during his or her flight within 200 feet from any other vessel or object; or within 50 feet of the stern of the vessel is prohibited.

OSAG -15. MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS.

Children may participate in parasailing activities only after the captain has made reasonable prior judgment that wind and sea conditions are conducive to such activities and extreme caution should be exercised.

1. All children under the age of 12 must wear a USCG approved, properly fitted life jacket at all times while onboard the vessel and in flight.
2. An older companion must accompany children under the age of 8 while in-flight.
3. A maximum towline length of 300 feet is recommended for children under the age of 12.

OSAG -16. MULTIPLE PASSENGER FLIGHTS.

Multi-passenger flights may only be conducted under the following conditions and only after the captain has made reasonable judgment prior to each and every flight. Extreme caution shall be exercised.

1. At no time shall there be more than two passengers in any canopy.
2. Wind conditions must be adequate, stable and consistent.
3. Sea conditions must be conducive to such activities.
4. Must utilize commercial equipment specifically designed and professionally manufactured for multi-passenger flight operations.
5. Must adhere to all equipment manufacturers' specifications, requirements and/or recommendations.
6. Vessel's winch system must be equipped with a functional level-winder during all multi-passenger flights.

OSAG -17. FLIGHT ALTITUDE LIMITATIONS.

Passenger flights shall at all times be limited to the following vertical altitudes above ground/water level (AGL) or as required by FAA regulation.

1. 300 feet- for inland waters or lakes entirely surrounded by land, or 500 feet if operating area exceeds two (2) square miles.
2. 500 feet- for near coastal waters or bodies of salt water not entirely surrounded by land.

OSAG -18. DAILY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION.

Prior to operating, it shall be the captain's responsibility for the daily inspection of the vessel, including all systems, parasail canopies, towline, safety gear and related equipment making certain they are properly maintained and in safe operating condition. A written log of such inspections shall be kept at all times.

OSAG -19. BOAT TRAFFIC/RIGHT OF WAY.

In addition to USCG rules of the road, vessels while engaged in parasailing should not assume themselves to be considered a RAM vessel (restricted in their ability to maneuver) and should be prepared to give way to other vessels.

OSAG -20. OPERATOR CONDUCT.

Operator shall adhere to the following minimum guidelines.

1. Operator shall employ a zero tolerance policy for deviation of OSAG guidelines as a minimum standard and must at all times place passenger safety first.
2. Operator must file an incident report immediately upon any known, or passenger implied injury or rescue which requires medical attention, and shall use an approved incident report form.
3. A copy of the OSAG REGS, EMERGENCY PROCEDURES MANUAL, INCIDENT REPORT FORM, SHIPS LOG and WEATHER and MAINTANACE LOG must be kept onboard the vessel at all times while in operation.
4. At no time shall any operator insist a captain operate under any condition he or she feels to be unsafe or dangerous to a passenger or participant.

SECTION TWO: OPERATING CONDITIONS

OSAG -21. PRE-FLIGHT WEATHER EVALUATION.

It is the Captain's responsibility to evaluate and determine if weather conditions are favorable for parasailing. The Captain shall use all means available to make such a determination. No operator shall knowingly parasail in rain, heavy fog or during a known lightning storm within five (5) miles from the parasailing area, in addition a daily weather log shall be maintained at all times.

OSAG -22. WEATHER WARNINGS.

At no time shall any operator willingly conduct parasail activities if it becomes evident that a storm frontal system is approaching within 7 miles of the parasail operating area.

OSAG -23. WIND CONDITIONS.

It is the Captain's responsibility to evaluate and determine if weather conditions are favorable for parasailing. The Captain shall use all means available to make such a determination. Operators shall follow recommendations of equipment manufacturers with regard to canopy selection for weight and wind speeds.

No vessel shall be operated in the following conditions:

1. When sustained wind is in excess of 20 mph/17.5 knots.
2. When excessive or dangerous wind gusts are present.
3. When the vessel is not capable of making forward way with forward winch engagement and passenger in tow.
4. When the passenger or passengers in tow will not begin to sufficiently descend when forward way has been paused.

OSAG -24. SEA CONDITIONS.

It is the Captain's responsibility to evaluate and determine if weather conditions are favorable for parasailing. The Captain shall use all means available to make such a determination. Operators shall follow recommendations of equipment manufacturers with regard to canopy selection for weight and wind speeds.

No vessel shall be operated in the following condition:

1. Seas in excess of 6 feet.

SECTION THREE: COMMERCIAL VESSELS

OSAG -25. RECOGNIZED WINCHBOATS.

Only the following commercially manufactured winch boats are currently recognized at this time. All other vessels must be submitted for approval.

1. Aerial Pro 30
2. Carrera 28
3. Nordic Ascender 28, 23
4. Ocean Pro 31, 34
5. ParaCraft Warrior 32
6. ParaCraft Cherokee 31
7. ParaNautique/Skyrider 34
8. Premium 28
9. Premium Thresher 37
10. Seaquest 31
11. Stratus Stratasailor 28

OSAG -26. COMMERCIAL PARASAIL VESSEL REQUIREMENTS.

Commercial parasail vessels shall meet the following requirements:

1. Vessel must be recognized and commercially manufactured.
2. Vessel must be equipped with winch direct launch and recovery system.
3. Vessel must be minimum of 28' in length for open ocean operation.
4. Vessel and all of its systems must be in excellent working condition.
5. Vessel must be suitable in appearance for commercial operations.
6. Vessel must be clean and well maintained.
7. Vessel maintenance log shall be kept at all times while in operation.
8. Vessel must comply with all applicable USCG requirements.

OSAG -27. NON-INSPECTED VESSEL REQUIREMENTS.

All vessels not currently required to be USCG inspected shall be required to provide the following:

1. Current USCG Certificate of Inspection (COI) or,
2. A Bi-annual vessel survey, or
3. USCG parasail seal of safety inspection, or
4. USCG commercial six (6) passenger seal of safety inspection, or
5. Other PAPO approved vessel inspection.

**SECTION FOUR:
PARASAILING EQUIPMENT**

OSAG -28. PARASAIL CANOPIES AND EQUIPMENT.

The following equipment is currently recognized for commercial use at this time.

Parasail Canopies and Harnesses

1. Ascending Parasails
2. Custom Chutes/Parasail Work Shop
3. CWS
4. Powersail
5. SportChutes
6. SportLite
7. US Parascending
8. Waterbird

Multi-Passenger Flight Equipment

1. Custom Chutes/ Parasail Work Shop
2. SkyRider
3. SportChutes
4. SportLite
5. US Parascending

OSAG -29. TOWLINE TYPES.

Only polyester high tensile type lines with a double braided low stretch construction shall be utilized.

OSAG -30. TOWLINE REQUIREMENTS.

All commercial towlines must meet the following standards. An in-service date shall be logged whenever new line is installed.

1. The minimum diameter of any towline shall be 3/8".
2. The maximum length shall be 1,200 feet.
3. The minimum tensile strength of any towline shall be 4,800 lbs.

OSAG -31. TOWLINE GUIDES.

All towline contact surfaces must be free from rough or abrasive points and should utilize four-point roller bearing technology. Also a towline stop apparatus or knot breaker type apparatus shall be incorporated into towline guide or hydraulic system.

SECTION FIVE: SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

OSAG -32. USCG APPROVED SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Operators shall use only USCG approved safety equipment in good condition and in such quantities as may be required by law.

OSAG -33. COMMUNICATIONS.

At all times Vessels must be equipped with the following:

1. VHF radio and/or other reliable communications onboard.
2. A marine radio capable of monitoring channel 16.

OSAG -34. WATER EVACUATION EQUIPMENT.

At all times, vessels not equipped with a swim step must have a heavy duty ladder sufficient in construction to facilitate heavy passenger extraction from water.

OSAG -35. CANOPY EVACUATION DEMO UNIT.

1. Not yet available.

OSAG -36. EMERGENCY FLIGHT RECOVERY SYSTEM.

1. Not yet available.

OSAG -37. PASSENGER RESCUE DEVICE.

1. Lifeguard or cann-type rescue float.

OSAG -38. OTHER RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT.

1. An adequately oversized anchor with sufficient chain and scope.
2. A basic handheld GPS should be onboard while in operation.
3. A back up form of communication, such as a cellular phone.
4. Basic hand held wind speed meter.
5. Basic wind direction indicator.
6. Complete first aid kit.
7. At least 2 Large Dry towels.
8. At least 2 Blankets.
9. 6 pack Bottled water.
10. Complete set of vessel logs and/or PAPO Document Resource Module.

**SECTION SIX:
CREW PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS**

OSAG -39. MINIMUM FLIGHT CREW REQUIREMENTS.

A minimum of two experienced crewmembers shall be onboard vessel at all times while engaged in parasailing activities and must meet the following minimum experience requirements prior to employment:

Qualified Flight Captain

1. Must be USCG Licensed (where applicable) for the appropriate operating area waters and vessel type, size, tonnage and passenger limitations as required by USCG. (or applicable equivalent outside U.S.)
2. Must be current in certification of CPR and First Aid.
3. Must be proficient in emergency techniques and procedures and proper use of safety equipment.
4. Must be currently enrolled in an approved random Drug testing program.
5. Must have successfully completed the on-line or written version of the "OSAG Review Module"
6. Must meet a minimum parasailing experience requirement of: 600 actual full rotation flights, with written verification of experience or;
7. Must have successfully passed a flight training course and/or a flight captain evaluation offered by a Certified PAPO Flight Instructor or;
8. Have had attended a PAPO Sponsored OSAG Training Clinic, Seminar or CD-Rom Training Module. (Currently not available)

Qualified First Mate/Flight Technician

1. Must have had successfully completed the PAPO, on-line or written version, of the "OSAG Review Module."
2. Must be currently enrolled in an approved random Drug testing program.
3. Must successfully complete an 800' (245 meters) swim in less than 6 minutes.
4. Must meet a minimum parasailing experience requirement of: 200 passenger handling, full rotation flights, with written verification of experience or;
5. Must have successfully passed a flight technician training course or flight technician evaluation offered by a Certified PAPO Flight Instructor or;
6. Have had attended a PAPO Sponsored OSAG Training Clinic/Seminar or completed a CD-Rom Training Module. (Currently not available.)