



Bi-Regional Status Report on Drowning Prevention

INSTRUCTION GUIDE AND GLOSSARY FOR COMPLETION OF RESPONDENTS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. This questionnaire was developed to understand the magnitude of drowning in your country and to assess current national efforts towards drowning prevention and improving water safety.

The same questionnaire will be completed by several colleagues from various sectors in your country, and your National Data Coordinator (NDC) will convene a consensus meeting to determine one set of answers for the country. The information collected will be compiled into the first-ever *Bi-Regional Status Report on Drowning Prevention*, which is planned for publication mid-2020. We know that a great deal of information is being requested in this questionnaire and sincerely appreciate your efforts.

This booklet defines key terms and aims to clarify the type of information we are seeking for each of the questions in the questionnaire, so please consult it as you complete the questionnaire. Please complete the questionnaire to the best of your ability (if a question is out of your range of expertise, please skip it) and bring it with you when you attend the consensus meeting, organized by your National Data Coordinator. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your National Data Coordinator.

Where questions ask for data, please provide the most recent data available in your country

Some of the questions in the questionnaire ask for data. For these questions, please try to provide the most recent national level data available, making sure to include the year to which these numbers pertain. Please try to provide **raw** data where possible so that we will be able to analyse these data ourselves (i.e. not a PDF of data that is already plotted/graphed).

Providing and sourcing data and documents

When providing documents please include the *entire* document, or if it is very long, please provide the abstract or summary as well as the full reference (this includes information on the date of publication, publishers, authors, city of publication, and website if applicable). Please indicate to us which pages are relevant for the questions described in this document. If you have an electronic copy of the document then please submit this to your NDC.

While all questions have a “Don’t know” response, this option should only be selected as a last resort.

GLOSSARY

Buoyancy device: a device used to increase an individual's ability to stay afloat when in water. Devices include personal flotation devices (PFDs), life jackets and throwable devices such as rings, horseshoe buoys or boat cushions.

Capsize: when a watercraft is turned on its side or upside down in water.

Crew: all personnel involved in the navigation and safe passage of a watercraft.

Drowning: the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid. This may result in a fatal or non-fatal outcome.

Intentional drowning: any drowning event that results from purposeful human action. This can be self-inflicted (suicide) or an interpersonal act of violence intended to cause harm (assault, homicide).

Life jacket: a sleeveless buoyant or inflatable jacket for keeping a person afloat in water.

Life Guard: an individual who supervises the safety, and performs the rescue of, swimmers, surfers, and other water sports participants in locations such as swimming pools, beaches or rivers.

Lifebuoy: designed to be thrown to a person while in water. A lifebuoy is usually a ring or horseshoe-shaped with a connecting line, allowing the casualty to be pulled through the water towards the rescuer.

Negligence: failure to take proper care in doing something; a breach of the duty of care.

Non-fatal drowning: where respiratory impairment from submersion/immersion in liquid is stopped before death.

Operator/Skipper/Master/Captain: the key individual responsible for operating a watercraft.

Overcrowding: the presence of more passengers on a watercraft than is safe or permissible; exceeding watercraft passenger capacity.

Overloading: when a watercraft is carrying too much weight, determined via load line or freeboard requirements.

Owner (of a watercraft): an individual who possesses the exclusive right to hold, use, benefit from, and otherwise dispose, of a watercraft.

PFD (Personal Flotation Device): a piece of equipment designed to assist its wearer in keeping afloat while in water by increasing their buoyancy.



Subnational: relating to an administratively defined region within a country, such as a state, province or municipality.

Swim Instructor: an individual who teaches swimming skills and provides education on water safety.

Unintentional “accidental” drowning: any drowning event that occurs unplanned, excluding drowning related to a natural disaster or a transport accident.



SECTION A. MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF DROWNING

Question 1. Which Ministries and Agencies are involved in drowning prevention in your country?

This question is about government activities only. There may be a single agency or department in your country that oversees and coordinates all drowning prevention/water safety activities at a national level. Alternatively, there could be multiple agencies or departments responsible for making decisions, controlling resources, and coordinating different types of drowning prevention/water safety efforts. Please specify additional agencies if not listed.

Question 2. Are there mechanisms for whole of government coordination of drowning prevention efforts? (E.g. a national coordination committee)

This question asks whether there is formal coordination in drowning prevention efforts between different sectors of government, designed to take action and achieve drowning prevention outcomes in a way which is more effective, efficient or sustainable than might be achieved by each sector acting alone. Your country may have one or several national collaborative mechanisms or such platforms may only exist at a subnational level.

If available, please upload further information on each mechanism, or provide a web-link (as appropriate).

Question 3. Please indicate the level of role played by various ministries and entities by checking the appropriate box for each cell in the table below.

For each government entity specified in the top row of the table, select the extent of their involvement in functions/activities specific to drowning prevention efforts, listed in the first column. Note: an answer of ‘No role’ is an important result; please ensure to mark to this where relevant.

Coordination of drowning prevention efforts at the central government level?

What role does the entity play in ensuring drowning prevention efforts are coordinated and aligned between different government Ministries and Departments at the national level?

Coordination of drowning prevention across different levels of government (e.g. national, sub-national, local)?

What role does the entity play in ensuring drowning prevention efforts are coordinated and aligned between national and sub-national government (i.e. between Federal government, state government, provincial government and/or other local government)?

Coordination of public awareness raising of drowning and drowning prevention?

To what extent is the entity involved in raising awareness on the issue of drowning to the general public and/or promoting approaches to drowning prevention at the national level?



Periodic review of legislation, rules and standards relevant to drowning prevention against best practice?

To what extent is the entity involved in regularly reviewing and assessing existing laws and policies associated with drowning prevention against new evidence as it becomes available?

Development and/or revision of legislation relevant to drowning prevention?

To what extent is the entity involved in updating existing laws or creating new laws associated with drowning prevention?

Operates in the implementation of legislation relevant to drowning?

To what extent is the entity involved in ensuring existing laws associated with drowning prevention are implemented and enforced in community settings?

Coordination of a research agenda for drowning prevention?

To what extent is the entity involved in development of national plans for drowning prevention research that address existing gaps in knowledge?

Compilation and dissemination of national statistics on drowning?

What role does the entity play in collecting and sharing available national drowning data?

Question 4. For each function, tick the box that best describes the level of funding for drowning prevention activities. There should be one box checked in each row.

This question asks about the extent of funding currently available for the implementation of each activity listed in the left hand column of the table. A detailed description of each function is available beneath *Question 3*.

Question 5. For each function, tick the box that best describes the source of funding for drowning prevention activities. There should be at least one box checked in each row

This question asks where the funding for the implementation of each drowning prevention activity comes from in your country. A detailed description of each function is available beneath *Question 3*.

Sources of funding are defined as follows:

Specific drowning budget: Government budget specifically designated for activities associated with drowning prevention at the national level.

Sectoral (general Ministerial budget): Budget within a government Ministry or Agency specifically designated for activities associated with drowning prevention at the national level.

Extra-budgetary (e.g. donor) funding: Funding received from national and/or international non-government organizations.

Self-funded: Revenue raised from activities associated with improved water safety is re-invested into activities associated with drowning prevention (e.g. fines issued for vessel overcrowding are reinvested to support the operation of a Maritime Safety Administration) (e.g. fees collected for participation in swimming lessons are reinvested into training additional swim instructors).



SECTION B. STRATEGY AND TARGETS

**Question 6. Is there a national strategy or policy for prevention of drowning in your country?
Please check all that apply:**

A strategy/policy is a specific official decision/set of decisions designed to carry out a course of action endorsed by a political body, including a set of goals, priorities and main directions for attaining these goals. This question will help assess existing national interest and commitment to preventing drowning. Please provide the names of documents outlining existing strategies/policies. If available, upload copies of these strategies/policies, or provide a web-link.

Sub-questions:

6.1 Do any of these strategies or policies set measurable targets to reduce the number of people drowning? (E.g. 50% reduction in drowning deaths by 2030)

Indicate whether any of the strategies/policies identified include specific, measurable, time-bound targets which directly reflect a reduction in drowning cases. Please copy the target and its timeframe into the space provided. If available, upload the strategy/policy document containing the target/s, or provide a web-link.

6.2 Do any of these strategies or policies align its work on drowning prevention to any of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals?

Indicate whether the strategies/policies identified align with specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Relevant SDGs include:

SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing

3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age

3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

SDG 5: Gender equality

5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities

11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special



attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situation

SDG 13: Climate action

13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Please specify which specific SDGs the strategy/policy aligns with, and provide relevant supporting documentation.

Question 7. If a national drowning prevention strategy or policy does not currently exist, is there interest or preparations currently underway to develop one?

Indicate whether drowning prevention/water safety strategies are being developed, or are anticipated to be developed in the near future. Select all agencies involved in coordinating action for strategy development.

SECTION C. CAPTURING FATAL & NON FATAL DROWNING EVENTS

Question 8. Are there data systems in your country capturing national data on drowning events?

Specify whether there are data collection systems in your country that document fatal and/or non-fatal drowning cases at the national level.

Sub-questions:

8.1 *What data collection systems are currently operating? Please check all that apply*

Select all types of data that include information on fatal and/or non-fatal drowning cases at the national level. For hospital data and vital/death cause registries, specify whether drowning cases are recorded using the ICD 9/10 classification system. The ICD (International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems) is a standardized approach to categorising and coding health issues, often used by health data registries and medical services. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>

8.2 *Do current data systems capture drowning deaths in the community? Please check all that apply:*

Drowning deaths often occur in community settings, at the time and place of the drowning event. As a result, few serious drowning cases have the opportunity to receive treatment at a medical facility, causing drowning deaths to be poorly captured through health service data.



Please specify whether there are data systems within your country that are equipped to capture drowning deaths that occur in the community. Provide details on how this data is captured: what methods are used, how frequently it is collected, who it is collected by, and what key agency is leading this process.

8.3 *Are persons missing at sea assumed to have drowned for the purposes of assigning a cause of death?*

This question investigates the classification given to individuals who are reported to be “missing at sea”. Although drowning is the most likely cause of death for people lost at sea, this assumption may not always be recorded in death data. Further, there are various approaches to determining whether, or when, a person missing at sea is classified as a fatality. Inconsistencies in reporting “missing at sea” outcomes may impact the quality of drowning mortality data.

8.4 *Does your country capture data on the following types of drowning? Please check all that apply whether the ICD 10 codes are used or not:*

This question investigates what detail of information is captured on the context of fatal and/or non-fatal drowning cases through routinely collected data. This information is important in identifying circumstances associated with drowning events which is useful in informing targeted approaches to drowning prevention.

The categories listed are attributable to the ICD 10 codes associated with drowning and submersion. Please mark all classifications used to report drowning cases in your country, whether the data available correspond to ICD 10 codes or not.

Unintentional “accidental” drowning (ICD 10 codes: W65-74): any drowning event that occurs unplanned, excluding drowning related to a natural disaster or a transport accident.

Water transport related drownings (ICD 10 codes: V90, V92): drowning associated with the use of water transport. This includes on the overturning or sinking of a boat, or after falling or jumping into water from a boat.

Natural disaster related drownings (ICD 10 codes: X36-X39): drowning resulting from exposure to ‘forces of nature’ including avalanches, landslides and other earth movements, cataclysmic storms and floods.

Intentional drownings (ICD 10 codes: X71, X92): any drowning event that results from purposeful human action. It can be self-inflicted (suicide) or an interpersonal act of violence intended to cause harm (assault, homicide).

Other (ICD 10 code: Y21): other unspecified types of drowning, not captured through the categories above.

8.5 *When reported/published, official statistics on drowning reflect (please check all that apply):*

This question investigates how your country presents drowning data when reported or published as official statistics. Category definitions are available beneath sub-question 8.4. This type of national, standardised data is important to accurately understand drowning



burden and to assess changes in drowning rates over time. Please specify if official drowning data is not regularly consolidated or reported at the national level.

8.6 What proportion of drowning deaths are associated with alcohol?

Of all drowning deaths reported or published as official statistics, please specify what proportion (%) are associated with alcohol consumption. Alcohol consumption increases drowning risk through a number of functions: it impairs judgement, increases risk taking behaviour, reduces coordination, impairs reaction time, and reduces the effectiveness of CPR. Alcohol may not be tested for in all drowning deaths and therefore, available data may underestimate this issue. Please provide the best estimates available to you and please specify describe the source of the data (i.e. who collects this data and how alcohol consumption is determined).

Question 9. Does your country capture data on drowning deaths by: age, sex, type of drowning, activity undertaken at time of drowning, and/or water body in which drowning occurs? Please check all that apply:

Please select the level of detail surrounding drowning deaths captured through routinely collected data:

Yes, by age: the age of the individual at the time of drowning death is captured.

Yes, by sex: the sex of the drowned individual is captured.

Yes, by type of drowning: the type of drowning event is captured, as outlined beneath sub-question 8.4.

Yes, by activity at time of drowning: the activity the individual was performing at the time of drowning is captured. This can include detail such as ‘bathing’ or ‘playing in water’.

Yes, by type of water body: information on the body of water the drowning occurred in is captured. This can include detail such as ‘ocean’ or ‘bathtub’.

Sub-questions:

9.1 Please select all categories drowning deaths are reported by, for each relevant data source:

Select the level of detail captured by each source of data for drowning deaths. This will assist us in identifying the most detailed drowning data available in your country.

9.2 Where can this data be obtained? Please list all potential sources and provide details on access:

Add details on approaches to accessing the above mentioned data for our follow-up. We will liaise with the relevant agencies holding the data to request access, enabling us to include summary figures in the status report.

Please provide copies of all above mentioned data if accessible to you. Raw data is preferred, in electronic format. Summary statistics, available through published reports, may also be of value. We request the most recent 5 years of data available, enabling us to investigate changes to drowning death rates over time. Please consult with your focal point if you are unsure what data is relevant.



Question 10. Please indicate the months of the year that correspond to “summer” months in your country

‘Summer months’ often correspond to the hottest months of the year, during which children have an extended break or ‘holiday’ from school. Drowning deaths tend to peak in summer months due to increased use of water bodies for recreational purposes (such as ponds, rivers, beaches and swimming pools) and decreased adult supervision for children who are outside of teacher care.

Question 11. Please indicate the months that correspond to the wet season in your country:

The ‘wet season’ corresponds to the time of year during which most of a region's average annual rainfall occurs. This may also be referred to as ‘monsoon season’ and may overlap with summer months. Drowning deaths tend to peak during wet season due to flooding. Flooding can introduce fast-flowing, murky water into communities which is hazardous to cross through or to play in.

Question 12. Please indicate the dates (MM/YY) and types of all major climatic events to occur in your country during the most recent 4 years:

Major climatic events include cataclysmic storms, cyclones, typhoons, tidal surges and floods. There is an increased risk of drowning both at the time of an event and following an event. The onset of sudden climatic events poses drowning risk for people using water transport and fishermen. Resulting flooding can remain present in communities for extended periods of time.

Question 13. Does your country collect data on the number of non-fatal drownings by age, sex and/or type of drowning? Please check all that apply:

Please select the level of detail captured through routinely collected data for non-fatal drowning events. Each category is further described beneath question 9.

Sub-questions:

13.1 Please select all categories non-fatal drowning events are reported by, for each relevant data source:

Select the level of detail captured by each source of data for non-fatal drowning events. This will assist us in identifying the most detailed drowning data available in your country.

13.2 Where can this data be obtained? Please list all potential sources and provide details on access:

Add details on approaches to accessing the above mentioned data for our follow-up. We will liaise with the relevant agencies holding the data, requesting access to include summary figures in the status report.

Please provide copies of all above mentioned data if accessible to you. Raw data is preferred, in electronic format. Summary statistics, available through published reports, may also be of value. We request the most recent 5 years of data available, enabling us to investigate changes in non-fatal drowning events over time. Please consult with your focal point if you are unsure what data is relevant.



SECTION D. LEGISLATION AND REGULATION FOR DROWNING PREVENTION

Question 14. Does your country have a legal means of defining and treating watercraft differently depending on vessel length or size?

Different rules and legislation may apply to watercraft of different sizes. Please indicate whether this occurs in your country.

Sub-questions:

14.1 If yes, are watercraft categorized into 'small' or 'large' vessels depending on length?

Vessel size is generally characterized by vessel length, measured from the tip of the bow in a straight line to the stern. Vessel size often falls into 2 categories: 'small vessels' or 'large vessels', with specific measurement cut-offs provided to guide categorization. Please specify whether the 'small' or 'large' dichotomization exists for vessels in your country.

14.2 If yes, state the size parameters used to define 'small' and 'large' watercraft categories:

Please state the measurement cut-offs used to determine whether a watercraft is a 'small vessel' or 'large vessel' (in meters).

14.3 Select all relevant operational considerations associated with the use of small and/or large watercraft

Small vessels and large vessels often have different laws associated with their operation. This can include different restrictions on where they can travel, on what/how much they can carry etc. Please specify all legislation that differs how small and large vessels operate in your country.

14.4 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide the names of documents outlining the above legislation. If available, upload copies of these strategies/policies, or provide a web-link.

Question 15. Does your country have legislation that classifies watercrafts into different categories by function?

Different rules and legislation may apply to watercraft with different functions (or that have different primary uses). Please indicate whether this occurs in your country.

Sub-questions:

15.1 If yes, select the relevant functions:

Recreational use (private or fee-based): watercraft is used for leisure activities including hobby fishing, leisure travel and water sports.

Occupational use by individuals (e.g. fisherfolk): watercraft is used by an individual to perform a task which incurs personal revenue.

Occupational use by larger entities (e.g. commercial fishing fleet craft): one of many watercraft owned by a large company is used to perform a task which incurs revenue primarily for the company.

Watercraft providing services for a fee (e.g. water taxis, passenger ferries etc.): watercraft is used to provide a service to the public, generally transport, in exchange for payment.

Others: other functions not specified above.



15.2 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide the names of documents outlining the above legislation. If available, upload copies of these strategies/policies, or provide a web-link.

Question 16. Is there legislation mandating registration and/or licencing of some watercraft? Please check all that apply:

‘Registration’ and ‘licencing’ of a watercraft can be two distinct processes. Please specify whether either is applied in your country, and state whether the requirement of registration and/or licencing is determined by a) the size of the watercraft, b) the primary function/purpose of the watercraft, and c) the area in which the watercraft operates. Watercraft registration/licencing establishes a link between a vessel and the owner of the vessel which can be used to ensure the enforcement of safety legislation pertaining to the watercraft.

Sub-questions:

16.1 Select all types of watercraft requiring registration

For each relevant watercraft category (size, function/primary purpose, area of operation), select all types of watercraft that require *registration* to be able to operate legally.

16.2 Select all types of watercraft requiring licencing

For each relevant watercraft category (size, function/primary purpose, area of operation), select all types of watercraft that require *licencing* to be able to operate legally.

16.3 Are any watercraft exempt from registration and/or licencing? Please specify:

Please describe which types of watercraft are *not* required to be licensed or registered to operate legally. For example, small traditional boats may be exempt from licencing/registration legislation.

Question 17. Is there legislation mandating periodic safety inspections of watercraft?

Periodic safety inspections certify that a watercraft is in working order. The structural condition of the vessel is checked and the availability, accessibility and quality of safety equipment is confirmed. Safety inspections are often performed by the Coast Guard, harbour patrol, police or an approved vessel examiner. Please state whether periodic safety inspections are required for watercraft in your country, and whether the need for safety inspection is determined by a) the size of the watercraft, b) the primary function/purpose of the watercraft and c) the area in which the watercraft operates.

Sub-questions:

17.1 Select all types of watercraft requiring periodic safety inspections:

For each relevant watercraft category (size, function/primary purpose, area of operation), select all types of watercraft that require periodic safety inspections to be able to operate legally.

17.2 Are any watercraft exempt from periodic safety inspections? Please specify:

Please describe which types of watercraft, if any, are *not* required to undergo periodic safety inspections to be able to operate legally.

17.3 Please provide details/reference of legislation:



Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 18. Is there legislation mandating licencing for the operator/skipper/Master/Captain of some watercraft?

Individuals are often required to obtain a licence prior to operating a watercraft, whether it be for recreational use or for occupational purposes. The licencing process generally involves obtaining proof of competency through a boating safety test, which assesses an individual's understanding of how to operate a boat safely and their knowledge of emergency procedures. The requirement of an operator licence may vary depending on the size, function, or area of operation of a watercraft. For example, in Canada, individuals using boats for daily living or subsistence activities (such as hunting and fishing practised by many Indigenous peoples) do not require a licence.

Sub-questions:

18.1 If yes, select all types of watercraft that require a licensed operator/skipper/Master/Captain:

For each relevant watercraft category (size, function/primary purpose, area of operation), select all types of watercraft that require licenced operators.

18.2 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

18.3 Select all individuals who, required by law, are responsible/accountable for the overall safety of a watercraft:

Please select all individuals who are legally responsible for ensuring a watercraft is well maintained, operated in safe conditions, and contains adequate safety equipment. These individuals are held responsible in the case of a breach of duty which can result in injury, death and/or other recoverable damages.

Owner: possesses the exclusive right to hold, use, benefit-from, convey, and otherwise dispose, of a watercraft.

Operator/skipper/Master/Captain: the key individual responsible for operating a watercraft while at sea.

Crew: all personnel involved in the operation of a watercraft while at sea.

Question 19. Is there legislation prohibiting operation of watercraft under the influence of alcohol (e.g. legislation on Blood Alcohol Concentration [BAC])?

Please specify whether your country has legislation regarding the operation a watercraft after the consumption of alcohol. Enforcement of such legislation may involve random breath testing.

Sub-questions:

19.1 If yes, is it based on a maximum BAC/BrAC limit?

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) and Breath Alcohol Concentration (BrAC) are used as metrics of alcohol intoxication. Both are measures of the percentage of ethanol in the blood, determined through blood, saliva, urine and/or breath tests. BAC measures of 0.08



and above are associated with impairment including decreased concentration, poorer depth perception and reduced peripheral vision. As a result, many countries have banned the operation of vehicles by individuals who have consumed enough alcohol to result in BAC of 0.08 or above. If similar legislation exists in your country, please specify what BAC/BrAC limit signifies intoxication.

19.2 Please provide details/reference of legislation

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 20. Is there legislation prohibiting operation of watercraft under the influence of psychoactive drugs?

Psychoactive drugs are defined as chemical substances that change brain function, resulting in alterations in perception, mood, consciousness, cognition or behaviour. This can include both street drugs and prescription medications. Please specify whether your country has legislation regarding the operation a watercraft after the use of psychoactive drugs.

Sub-questions:

20.1 Please provide details/reference of legislation

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 21. Is there legislation specifying the maximum number of occupants permitted on a watercraft to prevent overcrowding (i.e. watercraft passenger capacity)?

Overcrowding is defined as the presence of more passengers on a watercraft than is safe or permissible, exceeding watercraft passenger capacity. Overcrowding increases the risk of a watercraft capsizing or swamping, particularly in inclement weather. Overcrowded vessels often have insufficient safety equipment on board for all passengers, increasing risk of drowning in the event of vessel capsizes. Please specify whether your country has legislation regarding maximum occupancy of watercraft, and state whether this varies depending on the size, function, or area of operation of the watercraft.

Sub-questions:

21.1 If yes, specify all types of watercraft that have legislation to prevent passenger overcrowding:

For each relevant watercraft category (size, function/primary purpose, area of operation), select all types of watercraft required to set and abide by a maximum passenger carrying capacity.

21.2 Are any watercraft exempt from legislation to prevent passenger overcrowding? Please specify

Please describe which types of watercraft, if any, are *not* required to set and abide by a maximum passenger carrying capacity.

21.3 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.



Question 22. Is there legislation specifying a maximum weight permitted on a watercraft to prevent overloading (i.e. determined via load line or freeboard requirements)?

Overloading occurs when a watercraft is carrying too much weight, determined via load line or freeboard requirements. Overloading may occur due to an excess of passengers and/or cargo on a watercraft. As with overcrowding, overloading increases the risk of a watercraft capsizing or swamping, particularly in inclement weather. It also prevents the quick manoeuvring of a vessel, reducing its responsiveness in emergency situations. Overloading is often determined via load line or freeboard requirements. A load line, or ‘Plimsoll line’, is a physical reference mark on the hull of a floating watercraft indicating the maximum depth to which a watercraft may be safely immersed in water when loaded with cargo. The freeboard of a watercraft is the vertical distance between the centre of the load line and the uppermost continuous deck, and is a measure of the safety margin of a watercraft. Please specify whether your country has legislation regarding maximum weight permitted on watercraft, and state whether this varies depending on the size, function, or area of operation of the watercraft.

Sub-questions:

22.1 If yes, specify all types of watercraft that have legislation to prevent overloading:

For each relevant watercraft category (size, function/primary purpose, area of operation), select all types of watercraft required to set and abide by a maximum carrying weight.

22.2 Are any watercraft exempt from legislation to prevent passenger overloading? Please specify:

Please describe which types of watercraft, if any, are *not* required to set and abide by a maximum carrying weight.

22.3 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 23. Is there legislation making reference to the availability of specific buoyancy devices on board watercraft (select all that apply)?

Buoyancy devices are important for ensuring passenger safety if a watercraft overturns or submerges, particularly for passengers with poor swimming ability. A number of countries have guidelines for minimum requirements of safety equipment on board watercraft. Please select all specific buoyancy devices with associated legislation in your country below:

PFD (Personal Flotation Device): a piece of equipment that increases the buoyancy of an individual, keeping them afloat in water. A ‘life jacket’ or ‘life vest’ denotes a certain type of PFD.

Life jacket: a sleeveless buoyant or inflatable jacket for keeping an individual afloat in water. It is designed to turn an unconscious person from face down to face up in the water, allowing them to breathe.

Life ring/buoy: designed to be thrown to a person while in water. Usually a ring or horseshoe in shape with a connecting line, allowing a casualty to be pulled to the rescuer in a watercraft.



Yes, others: Please list any other items of safety equipment designed to keep a person afloat when in water, that are required by law to be on board watercraft during operation.

Sub-questions:

23.1 *If legislation exists for life jackets, does it stipulate a standard, or require adoption of a standard?*

Standards ensure that life jackets available to watercraft users are of high quality and are guaranteed to increase the buoyancy of an individual when in water. This is crucial in preventing the sale and purchase of faulty life jackets. There are four common global lifejacket standards:

EN ISO 12402: the European and International Standard for life jackets, buoyancy aids, special purpose lifejackets/buoyancy aids, floatation device materials/components and accessories.

AS 4758: the Australian standard for life jackets.

USCG (any Type): the United States Coast Guard standard for PFDs.

UL 118: safety requirements for fully inflatable recreational PFDs.

Please specify the standards applied in your country.

23.2 *If legislation exists for lifejackets, does it specify they must be worn at all times while passengers are on board a watercraft?*

Life jackets are most effective when worn at all times while on board a watercraft. Legislation surrounding life jacket use can vary between countries, by vessel type and by characteristics of the passenger. For example, in Ireland, personal flotation devices must be worn at all times while on board a watercraft less than 7 meters in length. In the United States, all children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket at all times. Please specify whether such legislation exists within your country.

23.3 *If legislation exists for lifejackets, does it specify they must be fastened during use?*

Life jackets are most effective when fastened during use, keeping the life jacket in place. Please specify whether existing legislation regarding life jacket use in your country specifies the need for life jackets to be properly fastened when worn.

23.4 *Are any watercraft exempt from requiring to carry buoyancy devices on board? Please specify*

Please describe which types of watercraft, if any, are *not* required to carry buoyancy devices on board when operating.

23.5 *Please provide details/reference of legislation:*

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 24. Is there legislation mandating that sufficient number of buoyancy devices are available on watercraft to meet the needs of all occupants?

Buoyancy devices can include personal flotation devices (PFDs), life jackets and throwable devices such as buoys or boat cushions. Sufficient buoyancy devices should be available to



ensure all passengers are assisted to stay afloat if a watercraft capsizes or submerges. Please specify whether your country has legislation mandating that sufficient buoyancy devices are available on board watercraft for all passengers, and state whether this varies depending on the size, function, or area of operation of the watercraft.

Sub-questions:

24.1 If yes, select all types of watercraft requiring a sufficient number of buoyancy devices by law:

For each relevant watercraft category (size, function/primary purpose, area of operation), select all types of watercraft required to have a sufficient number of buoyancy devices on board for all passengers.

24.2 Are any watercraft exempt from requiring a sufficient numbers of buoyancy devices on board? Please specify:

Please describe which types of watercraft, if any, are *not* required to have a sufficient number of buoyancy devices on board for all passengers.

22.3 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 25. Is there legislation requiring fencing to exclude unsupervised child access to swimming pools?

Fencing built around the perimeter of a swimming pool prevents children's unintended access to water, reducing risk of drowning. Legislation on swimming pool fencing may contain specific requirements, such as ensuring fencing is built to a certain height or that self-latching gates are built into the fence. Please specify whether your country has legislation regarding fencing around the perimeter of swimming pools.

Sub-questions:

25.1 If yes, specify types of swimming pools covered by the legislation:

Select the types of swimming pools that must be fenced by law.

25.2 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 26. Is there legislation stipulating that swimming lessons and water safety competencies be integrated within primary school curricula?

Through integrating swimming and water safety education into standard school curricula, all school-going children have an opportunity to learn how to swim and develop rescue skills, reducing their risk of drowning. Children are often assessed on their achievement of pre-determined competencies, such as ability to swim a specific distance or perform simple rescue. Please specify whether your country has legislation requiring swimming and water safety education to be incorporated into primary school curricula at the national level.

Sub-questions:



26.1 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 27. Is there a legislative framework that facilitates and supports structured adult supervision of preschool children?

Adult supervision reduces drowning risk among young children, particularly if children reside in close proximity to open water sources such as ponds or rivers. Effective supervision occurs when an adult is fully aware of a child's whereabouts and is able to respond immediately when a child is distressed or is in a hazardous situation. Please specify whether your country has legislation that supports the provision of effective adult supervision to children below five years of age through established programs or facilities. Programs/facilities can include day-care services, crèches or other types of child care programs.

Sub-questions:

27.1 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 28. Is there legislation to prosecute for cases of neglect of children?

A lack of adult awareness or responsiveness to a child in a hazardous situation has been identified as a key contributor to countless child drowning deaths. In many cases, this can be classified as negligence or a 'breach of the duty of care'. Please specify whether your country takes legal action against adults who neglect children under their care.

Sub-questions:

28.1 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 29. Is there legislation specifying minimum competencies, licensing or accreditation for swimming instructors?

A swimming instructor teaches swimming skills and provides education on water safety. Key responsibilities include: a) explaining and demonstrating swimming techniques to participants, b) monitoring and evaluating the progress of participants, adjusting the teaching programme when necessary, and c) supervising participants to ensure their safety. Swimming instructors are often required to undergo testing and certification, usually on completion of training, prior to their ability to work. Please specify whether your country has specific requirements for minimum competencies, licensing or accreditation of swimming instructors prior to their employment.

Sub-questions:

29.1 If yes, please check all that apply:

Check all types of qualifications or permits an individual is required to hold in order to be legally employed as a swimming instructor.

29.2 Please provide details/reference of legislation:



Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 30. Is there legislation specifying minimum competencies, licensing or accreditation for life guards?

A life guard supervises the safety of swimmers, surfers and other water sports participants in locations such as swimming pools, beaches and rivers, performing rescue from water if required. Key responsibilities include: a) monitoring water-related activities closely and identifying any safety issues, b) directing swimmers out of the water in hazardous conditions, and c) performing water rescue, first aid and emergency care if necessary. Life guards are often required to undergo testing and certification, usually on completion of training, prior to their ability to work. Please specify whether your country has specific requirements for minimum competencies, licensing or accreditation of life guards prior to their employment.

Sub-questions:

30.1 If yes, please check all that apply:

Check all types of qualifications and/or permits an individual is required to hold in order to be able to legally employed as a life guard.

30.2 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 31. Is there legislation permitting authorities to use private communication channels to broadcast disaster risk reduction warnings or messages?

Disasters that increase risk of drowning include tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis and mass transportation accidents. The timely and reliable delivery of essential information and safety advice to the public prior, during and following an event is crucial for mitigating impacts of major disaster. Private communication channels may be taken over by authorities to broadcast this information, including private satellite radio stations, direct broadcast satellite providers, cable television systems and wireless cable systems. Please specify whether your country has specific legislation requiring private communication channels to broadcast safety warnings from government authorities at the time of a disaster.

Sub-questions:

31.1 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 32. Is there legislation requiring agencies collecting data on drowning deaths to report these to the entity tasked with maintaining vital registry statistics for the country?

A number of different agencies may routinely collect data on drowning deaths across your country. Some may sit outside of government, such lifesaving societies, universities and other



non-government organizations. Please specify whether your country requires such agencies to report their collected drowning data to a national vital statistics registry on a regular basis.

Sub-questions:

32.1 Please provide details/reference of legislation:

Please provide references for documents detailing relevant legislation. If available, upload these documents to the survey, or provide a web-link.

Question 33. In your opinion, how effective is the implementation of the following legislation in your country? (0 to 10, where 0 is not effective at all and 10 is highly effective):

For each item of legislation listed in the left column of the table, please mark to which degree you believe the legislation is implemented in your country at the national level. A score of ‘0’ signifies that the legislation is poorly implemented and poorly enforced, with only a very small proportion of the population complying. A score of ‘10’ signifies that the legislation is very well implemented and strictly enforced, with a very high proportion of the population complying. Detailed descriptions of each piece of legislation are available beneath questions 14 to 32 in this guide. Please mark ‘NA’ if the legislation does not exist within your country.

Question 34 – 40. Have the following interventions or programmes been implemented in your country?

For each drowning prevention intervention listed in the left hand column of the tab, please specify whether the intervention has been implemented in your country. Provide further detail on the total proportion (%) of the relevant population receiving exposure to each intervention. For example, what proportion of pre-school children in the country have access to safe places with capable child care (Q31)? What proportion of the population have exposure to advanced warning systems at the time of a disaster (Q34)? Please indicate whether a formal evaluation of each intervention has been conducted within your country and provide relevant documents summarising evaluation methodology and outcomes.

