

Blue Flag Canada

Marina Criteria

blueflag.ca



**SWIM
DRINK
FISH**

Connecting people with water
Blue Flag Canada Operator





The Blue Flag is an internationally recognized and respected eco-label that is awarded annually to beaches, marinas and tourism boats, which have met strict criteria. Awarded Blue Flag beaches must meet criteria in four categories: Water Quality, Environmental Management, Environmental Education, and Safety & Services.

The Blue Flag program was founded in 1987 and is run internationally by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a non-profit organization based in Denmark. There are currently over 4,500 Blue Flags flying in 47 countries.

Canada's National Operator of the Blue Flag program is Swim Drink Fish, a national environmental charity.

Swim Drink Fish set out on a mission in 2001 to ensure that everyone could have access to swimmable, drinkable, fishable water. We do this by connecting people to water, collecting water quality data, sharing this information, and ultimately restoring water quality and habitat.

Swim Drink Fish is working with communities across Canada to make “connect, collect, share, restore,” a collective stewardship experience. The Blue Flag Canada program is key to creating this experience for communities with beaches, marinas, and boats across Canada. In 2020 Blue Flags were awarded to 29 beaches and nine marinas across the country.

WHY FLY A BLUE FLAG

Out of 47 countries polled by Blue Flag international, Canadians consistently demonstrated significant interest in the Blue Flag program. In Canada, a site flying a Blue Flag is regarded by the public as a symbol of excellence for environmental, educational, safety, and accessibility criteria.

Similar to that of Swim Drink Fish, a central focus of the Blue Flag program is connecting people with nature so they can learn about their environment. When people feel connected to water and the environment, they are much more likely to protect it.

What makes the Blue Flag program so unique and successful is its holistic nature. The Blue Flag standards ensure that Blue Flag beaches are not only clean and environmentally sustainable but provide the facilities and services that tourists are looking for around the world.

These standards are why the World Health Organization, the World Tourism Organization, and the United Nations Environmental Programme embrace the Blue Flag program.

CREDIBILITY FOR BLUE FLAG BEACHES

The Blue Flag beach criteria are organized into six main categories: Environmental Management, Environmental Education, Safety & Services, Water Quality, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Social and Community Involvement. The criteria are further categorized as either imperative or guideline. Most marina criteria are imperative, meaning the marina must comply with them to receive Blue Flag accreditation. Guideline criteria should be met, but are not mandatory.

Every year Blue Flag marinas must reapply to maintain the credibility of the Blue Flag program. Every summer, Swim Drink Fish performs random and announced control visits to Blue Flag marinas during the boating season to ensure that the marina is meeting all the criteria. Blue Flag International will conduct random and announced control visits to Blue Flag countries during the season. Reapplications and control visits are critical to ensure that all awarded marinas uphold the integrity of the program.

If a local authority or beach operator violates national environmental regulations or is in disagreement with the objectives and spirit of the Blue Flag program, Swim Drink Fish and FEE have the right to refuse or withdraw Blue Flag accreditation from any beach.



THE 7 STEPS TO THE BLUE FLAG AWARD

1. **CONTACT US** – If you're thinking about getting your marina certified, contact Swim Drink Fish. Our job is to help communities fly a Blue Flag. As part of a national and international network of beach operators, we can draw from the knowledge and experience of marina operators around the world.

2. **FEASIBILITY STUDY** – Before you can apply for the Blue Flag award, we will conduct a feasibility study of your marina. In addition to reviewing the intent form and documentation, Swim Drink Fish staff will meet with you to assess the beach and facilities. Following the site visit, we will prepare a feasibility study report outlining the steps required to meet all Blue Flag criteria. This report will provide a helpful framework to guide your initiatives.

3. **CANDIDATE PHASE** – If your marina agrees to adopt the recommendations of the feasibility study and proceed with Blue Flag certification, the marina will enter the pilot phase and become a Blue Flag "candidate." The purpose of the pilot phase is to allow the time to implement the recommendations of the feasibility study. It is recommended that a Blue Flag "candidate" works to implement the feasibility study recommendations over the summer season prior to the following years' Blue Flag application phase.

4. **BLUE FLAG APPLICATION** – Once the marina complies with Blue Flag Canada's criteria (listed in the following section), Swim Drink Fish will invite you to apply during the next application period. We will guide you through this process. Application forms and supporting documentation, including contracts for hazardous waste and recycling management, are submitted to Swim Drink Fish each December (See sample application form Appendix A).

5. **NATIONAL BLUE FLAG JURY** - The National Jury reviews all the Canadian applications in February each year and forwards successful applications to an International Jury for final approval. Independent experts in environmental education, marina and environmental management, safety and tourism take part in the National and International Jury meetings. Swim Drink Fish helps facilitate the jury review process, but does not vote on Blue Flag awards.

6. **INTERNATIONAL BLUE FLAG JURY** – The International Jury reviews all applications annually in April. Once the jury announces its decision, Swim Drink Fish shares the results with Canadian applicants. These results will be kept confidential until the official public announcement in May. This includes a national press release announcing Canada's Blue Flag awardees and candidates.

7. **BLUE FLAG SEASON BEGINS!** – Once the marina is officially open the marina operator can raise the Blue Flag! Many awarded marinas have flag-raising celebrations. Swim Drink Fish will help promote these events across its network. Blue Flag marinas are surveyed by Swim Drink Fish throughout the season to ensure they continue to meet all criteria. We promote all of Canada's Blue Flag on www.BlueFlag.ca and www.greatlakes.guide.

1 - CONTACT SWIM DRINK FISH

2 - FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Fill out a feasibility study application
- Blue Flag Canada performs an audit of the beach and provides a feasibility report

DOES THE BEACH MEET THE BLUE FLAG CRITERIA?

NO

YES

3 - CANDIDATE PHASE

To apply beach operators must implement the feasibility report recommendations

4 - BLUE FLAG APPLICATION

Applications are submitted to Blue Flag Canada in December

5 - CANADIAN JURY

The national jury reviews all applications in February

6 - INTERNATIONAL JURY

The international jury reviews all applications in April

7 - BLUE FLAG SEASON BEGINS

Blue Flag Criteria for Marinas

Environmental Education and Information



- 1 -** Information about the Blue Flag program must be displayed.
- 2 -** A Map indicating the location of the different facilities must be posted at the marina
- 3 -** Information about the local ecosystem must be displayed.
- 4 -** The marina must display a code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the marina and surrounding areas
- 5 -** The marina is responsible for offering at least three environmental education activities to the users and staff of the marina
- 6 -** The Individual Blue Flag for boat owners is offered through the marina
- 7 -** Twice a year there the marina must meet with the staff and go over Blue Flag measurements / environment / sustainability
- 8 -** The marina must ensure that every employee knows about Blue Flag and can communicate about Blue Flag with the guests

Environmental Management



- 9 -** The marina must establish a marina management committee. They are in charge of instituting environmental management systems and conducting regular environmental audits of the marina facility
- 10 -** The marina must have an environmental policy and an environmental plan. The plan must include references to water management, waste and energy consumption, health and safety issues, and the use of environmentally-friendly products wherever possible
- 11 -** The sensitive area must be managed
- 12 -** Adequate and properly identified, segregated containers must be in place for the storage of hazardous wastes. A licensed contractor must handle and dispose of the waste at a licensed facility for hazardous wastes
- 13 -** The marina must have adequate and well-managed litter bins and garbage in place. A licensed contractor must handle and dispose of the waste at a licensed facility
- 14 -** The marina must have facilities for receiving recyclable waste materials, such as bottles, cans, paper, plastic, organic material, etc.
- 15 -** Bilgewater pumping facilities should be available at the marina
- 16 -** Toilet tank waste reception facilities must be present at the marina for marina tenants
- 17 -** All buildings and equipment must be properly maintained and comply with national legislation. The marina must be well integrated into the surrounding natural and built environment
- 18 -** Adequate, clean and well signposted sanitary facilities, including washing facilities, must be in place and provide drinking water. Sewage waste disposal must be controlled and directed to a licensed sewage treatment plant
- 19 -** If the marina has boat repairing and washing areas, no pollution must enter the sewage system, marina land and water or the natural surroundings
- 20 -** The marina should promote sustainable transportation
- 21 -** Parking/driving is not permitted in the marina, except in specifically designated areas
- 22 -** The water consumption in the sanitary facilities and showers must be controlled
- 23 -** There must be an environmental policy and an environmental plan for the marina. The plan should include a data collection of water management, waste and energy consumption, health and safety issues as well as the use of environmentally friendly products wherever possible. All employees must be informed and educated about these issues
- 24 -** Only environmentally friendly cleaning products must be used for the cleaning of the facilities in the marina
- 25 -** Only environmentally friendly toiletries, paper towels and toilet papers must be provided in the sanitary facilities of the marina. Soap and other personal care products must be provided in dispensers with a dosing system

Blue Flag Criteria for Marinas

(continued)

Environmental Management



- 26** - Only energy-efficient lighting must be used. Sensors which regulate the use of the light should be installed wherever considered as being useful
- 27** - The energy supply of the marina should be based on renewable energies
- 28** - The marina should aim at being carbon neutral
- 29** - Artificially made green areas and gardens in the marina must be maintained sustainably
- 30** - The facilities in the marina must be made of environmentally friendly materials. Local suppliers should be preferably used when equipping the marina with new buildings, infrastructure or furniture

Water Quality



- 31** - The water in the marina must be visually clean without any evidence of pollution, e.g. oil, litter, sewage or other evidence of pollution

Safety and Services



- 32** - Adequate and well signposted lifesaving, first-aid equipment and fire-fighting equipment must be present. National authorities must approve equipment
- 33** - Emergency plans in case of pollution, fire or other accidents must be produced
- 34** - Safety precautions and information must be posted at the marina

- 35** - Electricity and water is available at the berths, and installations must be approved according to national legislation

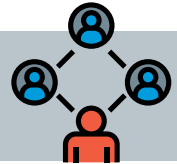
- 36** - Facilities for disabled people should be in place

Corporate Social Responsibility



- 37** - The marina management has a CSR policy, covering the areas of Human Rights, Labour Equity Environmental Education and Anti-corruption

Social and Community Involvement



- 38** - The marina management takes at least two measures to encourage sustainable relationships in the immediate environment and to fulfill its commitment to perform better on social fields



Criteria numbered in red are Imperative
Criteria numbered in blue are Guideline



Environmental Education & Information

1 Information about the Blue Flag program must be displayed.

Imperative

Blue Flag Information Board

Once awarded a Blue Flag, your marina must have a Blue Flag information board in place by the beginning of the boating season. The information board tells visitors about the Blue Flag program, what your community is doing to meet the criteria, and what your marina has to offer. It points out where visitors can find essential facilities and services like washrooms and first aid and provides contact information if they have questions or concerns. The information board is also used to describe the local ecosystem, advertise upcoming environmental education activities and promote environmental best practices to boaters.

Blue Flag Canada has a Blue Flag information board template that can be adapted to incorporate local information. This template saves Blue Flag communities from designing an information board from scratch, and ensures that the information board contains the following necessary information:

- 1. Blue Flag logo**
- 2. Name of the marina**
- 3. Information about the Blue Flag program**
- 4. Contact information and logos for the local, national and international Blue Flag representatives**
- 5. Code of conduct**
- 6. Information about the local environment**
- 7. Map of the beach indicating the location of facilities**
- 8. Safety precautions**
- 9. Explanation of the four categories of the Blue Flag criteria**
- 10. Length of the boating season at your marina**

Information about environmental education activities It is strongly recommended that the entire list of criteria be available at the marina for interested visitors. Visitors should be encouraged to contact the relevant authority if they come across any non-compliance with the Blue Flag marina criteria.

2 A Map indicating the location of the different facilities must be posted at the marina

Imperative

A map of the marina area indicating all the required and other facilities must be posted on the information board. The following facilities must be indicated on the map:

- **Reception facilities for hazardous waste and oil waste**
- **Garbage containers**
- **Facilities for recyclable waste**
- **Toilet tank pumping/reception facilities (if present)**
- **Bilge water pumping/reception facilities (if present)**
- **Lifesaving equipment**
- **Fire-fighting equipment**
- **First-aid equipment**
- **Public telephone (if applicable)**
- **Sanitary facilities (toilets, showers, washing facilities, drinking facilities, etc.)**
- **Fuelling station (if present)**
- **Boat repairing and washing areas (if present)**
- **Marina office / club house**
- **Facilities for disabled people (if present)**
- **Designated parking areas (if present)**
- **Boat places reserved for guest boats (if present)**
- **Nearby public transportation (if very close to the marina)**
- **You are Here indicators**
- **Direction signs, e.g. North**

Other facilities (like shops, restaurants, etc.) can also be indicated on the map.

The different facilities should preferably be indicated on the map by easily understood pictograms. The cartographic coordinates of the marina should be presented in a clearly visible place.

3 Information about the local ecosystem must be displayed.

Imperative

This criterion helps marina users learn about the coastal ecosystem and the surrounding natural environment. It helps motivate marina users to interact responsibly with the local natural environment.

On the Blue Flag information board at the marina, information about the local ecosystem must be publicly displayed. Blue Flag defines nearby sensitive areas as areas within walking distance from the marina (a few kilometres). Nearby sensitive marine areas are defined as coastal or inland areas easily reached by boat (within the distance frequently sailed by the users of the marina).

The information should include information about sensitive areas, and in cases where it is possible to visit the sensitive area, a code of conduct for activities within that area. Details about sensitive marine areas must also be provided to users to avoid sailing or mooring in these areas.

Some sites at or near the Blue Flag marina may be sensitive and require special management. In these cases, the marina operator must consult an appropriate conservation organization for advice on how to manage these sites. If areas require special management, at the time of application, the applicant must confirm that this consultation has taken place and that the implementation of the special management occurs.

In exceptional cases, the sensitivity of some natural regions may preclude them from being included in the information posted at the marina. Such information could increase the number of visitors to the area and possibly endanger wildlife or damage habitat

4 The marina must display a code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the marina and surrounding areas

Imperative

A marina is only as environmentally friendly as the boaters who use it. A code of conduct encourages environmentally responsible behaviours and ensures that visitors understand the marina rules and local by-laws.

The code of conduct must be posted on the information board, and should also be posted on the marina website and included in marina brochures and newsletters. Marina users should be asked to sign a code of conduct along with their seasonal or day-use contract.

The code of conduct should cover the following topics:

- **Use of the reception facilities for hazardous waste/oil waste, etc.**
- **Use of the garbage containers/litter bins/waste recycling facilities**
- **Respect for wildlife and natural habitat**
- **Avoidance of boating in sensitive protected areas**
- **Use of the boat-repairing and washing areas according to best practice**
- **Prohibition of dumping garbage or sewage into waterways**
- **Use of wastewater pump-out facilities**

5 The marina is responsible for offering at least three environmental education activities to the users and staff of the marina.

Imperative

The community must provide at least three environmental initiatives during the Blue Flag season. The activities should focus on the environment, environmental issues, Blue Flag issues or sustainability issues. The marina must promote these initiatives. If sensitive environmental areas exist near a Blue Flag marina, we strongly recommend that one or two environmental activities deal with these natural areas.



The applicant doesn't need to organize all of the environmental education initiatives. Blue Flag Canada encourages partnerships with local organizations, whether they are "Friends of" groups, environmental NGOs, conservation authorities, naturalist clubs or other community groups.

Environmental education initiatives can take many forms, and Blue Flag divides them into the following categories:

- 1. Passive participation: Exhibits, films, presentations, slide shows, conferences, debates, etc.**
- 2. Active participation: Guided tours, educational games, clean-up days, photography or art contests, naturalization projects, recycling projects, green technology projects, community coastal monitoring programs, etc.**
- 3. Training activities: Training sessions for boaters or marina staff, municipal staff, teachers, cleaners, summer students, etc.**
- 4. Publishing and media: The production of leaflets, brochures, stickers, t-shirts, bags, interpretive signage, school and municipal newsletters, books, posters, radio broadcasts, etc.**
- 5. Blue Flag Environmental Information Centre: This is where the marina can provide information about Blue Flag and environmental education issues. A common meeting area can be used as an information centre, so long as it offers activities and displays, and provides environmental information. The centre should be open to and have information for the general public.**



6 The Individual Blue Flag for boat owners must be offered through the marina.

Imperative

A marina must offer the Individual Blue Flag for Boat Owners at its office. The Individual Blue Flag is a small flag offered to boat owners who commit to an environmental code of conduct. Both national and foreign boat owners are eligible for the Individual Blue Flag.

Blue Flag Canada will provide certified marinas with a Blue Flag for Boat Owners pledge form that contains all of the recommended commitments, and includes space for boaters to provide their signature, name, and address. If the boat owner hands in the signed pledge form to marina staff, the marina should provide the boater with a flag and send the signed Code of Conduct to Swim Drink Fish.

Alternatively, the boat owner may choose to send the signed Code of Conduct directly to Swim Drink Fish. Regardless, all boat owners flying the Blue Flag must have their name and addresses registered with Swim Drink Fish. Information about the Individual Blue Flag for Boat Owners and the code of conduct must be displayed on the information board.

7 Twice a year there is a meeting with the staff about Blue Flag measurements, environment and sustainability

Guideline

This is preferably done before and after the Blue Flag season, but for those marinas with year long seasons, the meetings can be held every six months. This can be checked by reports or minutes of management meetings.

8 Every employee knows about Blue Flag and can communicate about Blue Flag with the guests

Guideline

The marina must train all permanent and seasonal on the Blue Flag Programme. Blue Flag training is especially important for new employees. The training should be about what Blue Flag criteria means in their job. Part-time staff in high-season must also be informed about the Blue Flag.



Environmental Management

9 A marina management committee must be established. It is in charge of instituting environmental management systems and conducting regular environmental audits of the marina facility

Imperative

Blue Flag is a multi-disciplinary program, often requiring cooperation between various agencies and stakeholders. Establishing a marina management committee ensures that these personnel work together throughout the years to maintain Blue Flag standards. The marina management committee should consist of all the relevant stakeholders at the local level. Relevant stakeholders could include representatives from: the local authority, local tourism, sailing organizations, Marine Protected Area representative, educational representative, local environmental NGO, etc.

The marina management committee should work with the marina manager to implement environmental management practices and conduct regular environmental audits of the marinas. The committee is also responsible for ensuring compliance with other Environmental Management criteria.

The committee should meet at least twice a year to discuss the management of the marina and ensure that all criteria are being met. Committee members are encouraged



to take a hands-on approach and provide support to the marina manager, facilitate environmental education initiatives, and promote the program. If there are multiple Blue Flag sites within a community, only one committee is needed to oversee all of the sites.

10 The marina must have an environmental policy and an environmental plan. The plan must include references to water management, waste and energy consumption, health and safety issues, and the use of environmentally-friendly products wherever possible

Imperative

This criterion encourages the marina to investigate the environmental loads entering the marina, to plan and perform improvements of the environmental conditions at the marina, and finally, to document these improvements. The criterion therefore, not only aims to encourage marinas to get an overview of the environmental situation – but also to focus on the action that needs to be taken.

Planning and improving the environmental conditions at the marina can - at the same time - have a positive effect on the economy of the marina. The marinas participating in the Blue Flag Programme are very different in size and capacity. See Appendix A for two suggestions on how to comply with this criterion.

As a standard of excellence, Blue Flag requires that applicants manage the marina and facilities in compliance with provincial and national legislation. This includes building codes, land use planning, environmental assessments, wastewater treatment, environmental management, and accessibility. As well, operators are expected to have an environmental plan in place that references water management, waste and energy consumption, health and safety issues, and the use of environmentally friendly products.

Marina operators are expected to: review energy and water use, waste management, and the environmental impacts of the marina; plan and perform improvements that reduce the marina's impact on the environment; and document ongoing improvements. See Appendix A for two suggestions of how to comply with this criterion.

11 Sensitive area must be managed

Imperative

Nearby areas to Blue Flag marinas may be very sensitive and require special management. In these cases, the marina operator must consult an appropriate conservation organization or expert for advice on how to manage these sites. Where areas require special management, at the time of application, the applicant must provide confirmation that this consultation has taken place and that a management plan will be implemented.

In some circumstances, the sensitivity of certain areas may prevent them from being part of a Blue Flag zone or from having information posted at the marina directing people to the area, because an increased number of visitors could endanger wildlife and habitats. As a general rule, Blue Flags are only awarded to sites that can demonstrate management of visitors and recreational use in a way that prevents long-term, irreversible damage to the local natural environment.

If a Blue Flag marina is located in or near a Marine Protected Area, it is necessary to consult with Fisheries and Oceans Canada in order to ensure compatible ecosystem, conservation, and biodiversity goals.

12 Adequate and properly identified, segregated containers must be in place for the storage of hazardous wastes. The wastes have to be handled by a licensed contractor and disposed of at a licensed facility for hazardous wastes

Imperative

The facilities for hazardous waste must provide segregated, properly identified containers for the collection of all relevant hazardous waste. Blue Flag marinas must have segregated facilities for at least three (3) different types of hazardous waste, like:

- **paints**
- **solvents**
- **boat scraping**
- **antifouling agents**
- **batteries**
- **waste oil**
- **flares**



It is preferable that one be waste oil. The facilities for receiving hazardous waste must be functional. It is encouraged to also think about the location and consideration given to aesthetics as well.

To determine the number of containers required at the marina there are three things to consider:

- **The capacity of the containers**
- **The number of users of the marina**
- **How frequently the containers are emptied**

The facilities for receiving hazardous waste must be clean and environmentally-safe. The containers must effectively contain the hazardous waste. The floor where the containers stand must be concrete, a metal tray or another solid material to prevent leaching into the soil. The storage containers must prevent leaking, ignition, exploding, etc. The hazardous waste should be stored away from other marina facilities and must not pose a danger to visitors or the general public. They should also be located far from the water.

In the event of an accidental spillage, the area around the containers must be cleaned up immediately and rehabilitated as a matter of priority. The oil reception facilities should preferably include mobile oil reception facilities.

The duty of the marina receiving Blue Flag accreditation is to ensure that the waste is properly disposed of. Licensed carriers must transport the hazardous waste to the licensed facility. Licensed disposal facilities means facilities approved by authorities on the basis of environmental requirements. To ensure the correct collection, sorting, storage and disposal of the waste, the marina must comply with provincial, national, and international waste management plans and standards.

In the case of small and/or remote marinas (less than 150 berths) who find it impossible to deal with hazardous waste due to an inability to responsibly dispose of the waste, The marina must negotiate with another marina in the vicinity of their marina that has the facilities to recover and dispose of hazardous waste. If this neighbouring marina can deal with the hazardous waste of the small and remote marina, then it can accept the hazardous waste from the boating clients of the small and remote marina. However, this must be stipulated on the Blue Flag marina's information board as well as in the marina's information package to all visiting boaters.

A written agreement needs to be signed between the two marinas, however it remains the responsibility of the Blue Flag marina to ensure that the waste is properly managed.

13 Adequate and well-managed garbage bins must be in place and regularly maintained. The wastes are handled by a licensed contractor and disposed of at a licensed facility

Imperative

All the land areas of the marina itself must appear clean with regularly emptied garbage bins. Also restaurants, shops, green areas, etc. in the marina must be kept clean.

Garbage bins must be functional and nice-looking. It is recommended that garbage bins be made of environmentally-friendly products like recycled plastics or wood. It is best to use bins with covers, otherwise they can attract wildlife and birds.

There must be enough bins to service the traffic at the marina and they should all be regularly maintained, well secured, and spaced appropriately. During the peak tourist

season, the spacing between bins and the frequency at which they are emptied should be increased as necessary. The marina must ensure the waste storage area is cleaned as often as needed. In summary, when choosing and locating bins, the following factors should be considered:

- **Bin capacity**
- **Environmentally friendly products**
- **Type and source of litter**
- **Volume of visitor traffic**
- **Frequency of service**
- **Local environment, e.g. winds, high tides**
- **Scavenging by wildlife and birds**
- **Accessibility, e.g. height, surface**

The duty of the marina receiving Blue Flag accreditation is to make sure that its waste is properly disposed of. Licensed carriers must transport the waste to the licensed facility. Licensed disposal facilities means facilities approved by authorities on the basis of environmental requirements. To ensure the correct collection, sorting, storage and disposal of the hazardous waste, the marina must comply with municipal, provincial, and national waste management plans and standards.

The marina must ensure cleaning of the area as often as needed (could be every day). In the case of severe pollution coming from outside, the pollution must immediately be removed according to the procedures in the emergency plan (criterion 18). In very severe cases, it may be necessary to withdraw the Blue Flag temporarily explaining the reasons for the withdrawal on the information board. It is also important in the code of environmental conduct (criterion no. 2) to educate the marina users not to throw garbage, empty toilet tanks etc. into the marina or the sea.



14 The marina must have facilities for receiving recyclable waste materials, such as bottles, cans, paper, plastic, organic material, etc.

Imperative

To promote recycling, it has to be convenient — so it is important that there are enough recycling bins to service the number of visitors at the marina, and that they are easy to find. Provide separate containers for the types of waste that are recycled in your municipality, such as paper, plastic, glass, and cans.

The marina must have facilities for receiving at least three different kinds of recyclable waste materials. These bins should be well labeled and designed to encourage people to put materials in the appropriate containers. If your local recycling facility does not require source separation, this should be communicated on signage.

The marina receiving Blue Flag accreditation has the duty to ensure that its recyclable waste is properly recycled. Licensed carriers must transport the waste to the recycling facility.

15 Bilge water pumping facilities should be available at the marina

Guideline

The bilge water pumping facilities can be provided within the marina or in very close proximity to the marina. The facilities must be easily accessible for all potential users.

The bilge water pumping facilities should be able to separate the oily bilge water or water extraction from oily residues.

In the case of a small and/or remote marina (less than 150 berths), the possibility of sharing this facility with a neighbouring marina is permitted.

In this case, the information must be very clear on the information board as well as to all clients of the marina. A written agreement needs to be signed between the two marinas, however it remains the responsibility of the Blue Flag marina to ensure that the bilge pumping facilities are properly managed.

16 Sewage pump-out facilities must be present at the marina.

Imperative

Sewage discharges in bodies of water negatively affect water quality, and impact marine life and recreational water use. Sewage pump-out facilities encourage boaters to follow environmental best practices by discharging at an appropriate facility where sewage will be sent for treatment.

The sewage tank waste reception facilities must comply with national legislation. Sewage pump-out facilities may consist of a mobile sewage pumping facility, a sludge pumping van, or a permanent sewage pumping station. The facilities must be easily accessible to boat owners, at any time during marina operations, and preferably located within the marina or in very close proximity to the marina. Permanent sewage pump-out facilities must be centrally located in the marina and easily accessible for all boats (including those boats requiring more space and depth).

In the case of a small and/or remote marina (less than 150 slips), a marina may share this facility with a neighbouring marina. Additionally, a small and/or remote marina can also offer the services of a contractor to take care of this. In both cases, this information must be very clear on the information board as well as to all clients of the marina. A written agreement needs to be signed between the two marinas, or the Blue Flag marina and the contractor, however it remains the responsibility of the Blue Flag marina to ensure that the sewage pump-out facilities are properly managed.



17 All buildings and equipment must be properly maintained and be in compliance with national legislation. The marina must be well integrated into the surrounding natural and built environment

Imperative

The marina (including all the buildings and equipment) must be well maintained and must comply with national and international legislation. The marina must have all the necessary permits to function as a marina. If a new marina with more than 500 berths is to be constructed or an existing marina is to be extended by more than 250 berths, an Environmental Impact Assessment must be conducted. The Blue Flag must not fly during substantial building extensions and/or rebuilding at the marina.

Other buildings/facilities at the marina (including shops, restaurants, cranes, playgrounds etc.) must be clean, safe, properly maintained and in compliance with relevant legislation. No unauthorized pollution from buildings/facilities must enter the marina land, water or surroundings.

It is strongly recommended that the marina uses environmentally-friendly equipment and products in the buildings whenever possible. Green areas at the marina should also be properly maintained in an environmentally-friendly way (without the use of pesticides, etc.).

Consideration must be given to the general appearance of the marina. It must be well integrated within the surrounding natural and built environment, should give consideration to design standards and meet environmental and aesthetic requirements. It is not the intention that all Blue Flag marinas become identical; marinas should be encouraged to maintain their individual characteristics.

18 Adequate, clean and well sign-posted sanitary facilities, including washing facilities must be in place and provide drinking water. Sewage disposal is controlled and directed to a licensed sewage treatment plant

Imperative

The sanitary facilities must be in good condition, clean and well kept. The sanitary facility buildings must also be well maintained and in general accordance with national building legislation (see also criterion no. 12).

The sanitary facilities must include toilets, washbasins and showers. There must also be drinking water available. Other facilities could include washing machines.

The number of sanitary facilities available in the marina must be adequate for the number of marina visitors in the peak season (generally at least one toilet, one urinal, one shower, one hand washing basin per 25 berths). The marina management must discourage boat owners from using the boat toilet facilities during their stay in the marina.

The sanitary facilities must be easy accessible and located not too far away from any point in the marina (in general less than 200 metres from any boat at any berth). The location of the sanitary facilities must be easy to locate (using signs or indications on the map of the marina).

The sanitary facilities must be linked to a licensed sewage treatment system, and the system must be in compliance with the national legislation specifically the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations. If the marina is very small and/or very remote, the National Jury can, in special cases, approve an- other safe way of disposing of the wastewater generated by the marina.



19 A marina with boat repairing and washing areas must comply with all standards and regulations in national and international legislation.

Imperative

The boat repairing and washing must take place in a specifically designated area at the marina.

There must be collection filters (or equivalent systems) from boat repairing and washing areas to prevent hazardous substances from entering the sewage system and the marina land/water. The collection filters must be regularly emptied and the waste in the filters should be treated as hazardous waste.

Larger repairing activities (e.g. grinding, polishing or sandblasting which cause dust pollution) must take place under cover or indoors under controlled conditions. Collected waste must be handled as hazardous waste. Serious noise pollution from boat repairing and washing must be avoided.

20 Sustainable transportation should be promoted

Guideline

Transportation has a big impact on the environment, from affecting local air quality to increasing greenhouse gas emissions. A truly sustainable marina should be accessible by cycling, walking or public transit. The marina is encouraged to collaborate, or work with, local authorities and/or local groups regarding compliance with this criterion and sustainable development.

If there are more than two kilometres to the nearest urban area, there should preferably be public transportation between the marina and urban area. Sustainable transportation can also be promoted through the availability of bicycles for rent and the presence of pedestrian pathways.

There are several ways that you can encourage sustainable transportation:

- **Provide and encourage public transportation like trains, buses and streetcars.**
- **Offer shuttle buses to and from the marina.**

- **Provide cycling and pedestrian trails to and from the marina.**
- **Provide cycling infrastructure like trails, bike racks, and bike rentals or loans.**
- **Ensure that there are adequate sidewalks to encourage walking.**

21 Parking/driving is not permitted in the marina, except in specific designated areas

Imperative

In general, parking and driving cars inside the marina should be avoided. The use of cars should, wherever possible, be replaced with sustainable transportation (public transportation, bicycles, etc.) – see criterion no. 16.

If parking and driving within the marina cannot be avoided, driving and parking must only take place in areas designated for this purpose. It is very important in the planning of these areas, to consider the safety and free passage of people walking in the marina.



22 The water consumption in the sanitary facilities and showers must be controlled

Guideline

The marina should use water-saving measures in taps, showers and toilets.

- 1. The maximum flow for showers should be 9 liter/minute**
- 2. The maximum flow for taps should be of 6 liter/minute**
- 3. The maximum flow for toilets should be 6 liter per toilet flush.**

Exceptions:

When toilets have a grey water system or have a stop button, a maximum of 9 liters per flush is allowed.

In addition to the reduction of water consumption, the marina should take additional measure like:

- **the use of pressure or sensor faucets**
- **a system slow the water flow**
- **a payment system (coins, Sep key),**
- **use greywater,**
- **install a water recycling system, etc.**

23 The marina should monitor and collect data to improve water management, waste and energy consumption, health and safety issues and the use of environmentally friendly products wherever possible.

Guideline

These improvements must be documented in an environmental policy and the environment management plan.

To implement this criteria the marina should monitor and document its annual consumption data of gas, water, electricity, waste, and (optionally) cleaning products. The data collected can be converted into indices using a data management software like Excel Microsoft, or Google Sheets. The data should include the following information:

- **quantities of gas, electricity, water,**
- **all charges for gas, electricity, water,**
- **cost per unit consumption of gas, electricity, water.**

The marina should conduct an energy audit every 5 years, commission a study looking at energy performance and recommended measures for improvement. The measures can be included in the sustainability program (guideline 2). All employees should be informed and educated about energy efficiency at the marina.



24 Only environmentally friendly cleaning products must be used for the cleaning of the facilities in the marina

Guideline

Sanitary and interior cleaning products should have an accredited environmental label, or are products which are not on the blacklist (see APPENDIX B: Green Key blacklist).

Sanitary and interior cleaners can have an eco-label such as The Canadian EcoLogo Program, Green Seal (USA), European Union Ecolabel Blue Angel (Germany), Nordic Swan Label (Scandinavia).

When outsourcing the cleaning operations, the current contract should be reviewed with the above terms to be included in the next contract review and definitely within one year after the initial assessment for the Blue Flag. For daily cleaning activities only fiber cloth products should be used.

Exception:

Specific cleaners that are regulated by laws for health and safety, hygiene and / or food safety (HACCP) either periodically or in case of emergency are not covered by this criterion.

25 Only environmentally friendly toiletries, paper towels and toilet papers must be provided in the sanitary facilities of the marina. Soap and other personal care products must be provided in dispensers with a dosing system

Guideline

Paper towels and toilet paper must be made of non-chlorine bleached paper or must have an eco-label.

26 Only energy efficient lighting must be used. Sensors which regulate the use of the light should be installed wherever considered as being useful

Guideline

All lighting should be energy efficient (PSL, TL, SL, LED etc). One year after the inspection of the marina all lighting inside and outside should be energy efficient. Halogen lighting and traditional light bulbs should be avoided at the marina. For areas where bulbs are not energy efficient the marina should provide a substitution plan.

Energy-efficient lighting typically has a minimum light output of 40lumen / watt. The PSL, TL, SL and LED lighting satisfy this condition.

If there is no suitable alternative the marina may get a dispensation. The marina must demonstrate that energy-efficient lighting cannot be technically realized or that the required investment has a payback period of > 5 years.

Lighting sensors should be used in and around the buildings of the marina to reduce unnecessary energy usage. Lighting sensors turn lights on / off based on motion (motion sensor) or if there is too little light (light sensor).

27 The energy supply of the marina should be based on renewable energies

Guideline

The marina should use renewable energy sources. This can include sources like wind, solar and water; through solar, windmills, photovoltaic solar cells (electricity generation) or similar renewable energy, tyleno hose for heating (tap) water etc.

If the marina purchases green gas then then the Blue Flag application must include a certificate of origin. Green gas is gas produced from biomass.

28 The marina should aim at being carbon neutral

Guideline

The marina management should carry out an assessment of CO2 footprint to see if it can be carbon neutral.

Explanation: Working with CO2 emission certificates is always the culmination of activities. Save first, then see whether the marina itself can generate renewable energy. The third step is to neutralize CO2 emissions by purchasing CO2 certificates for the remaining CO2 emissions.

29 Artificially made green areas and gardens in the marina must be maintained sustainably

Guideline

Chemical pesticides and fertilizers cannot be used more than once a year, unless there is no organic or natural equivalent. As no chemical pesticides or fertilizers should be used on the marina's premises, alternatives should be used.

Here are some tips:

- **If using gas flames the best effect is achieved if the plants are not burned down to the ground but rather just scorched**
- **Flowers and gardens should be watered in the early morning or after sunset to reduce the water consumption. It helps avoid evaporation and is best for the roots of plants**



- Rainwater in rain barrels can be used for watering flowers and gardens to reduce water consumption
- When planting new green areas use native species. Native species use less water than non native species and it preserves the biodiversity of the surroundings

When making a plan for new green areas think of the following components:

1. introduction (including business data)
2. a global inventory of paved surfaces, plant and tree species on and around the marina and a description of present landscape elements
3. a description of how current and future natural areas on and around the marina are handled (e.g., in terms of pruning, lawn mowing, weed control etc.)
4. make a management plan for natural areas within and around the marina. This plan looks at the desired future development.
5. summary measures and costs of the plan
6. appendices outline

30 The facilities in the marina must be made of environmentally friendly materials. Local suppliers should be used for new buildings, infrastructure or furniture at the marina

Guideline

This criteria includes all the buildings, furniture, infrastructure at the marina.

For painting environmentally friendly paints with an eco-label should be used. Explanation: When painting the interior and exterior of marina buildings use only environmentally friendly paint. The paints have a label such as Ecolabel, EU ecolabel or similar.

During new construction, reconstruction or a renovation of the marina environmentally friendly and sustainable materials should be used. This includes eco friendly wood products, for example Timber Procurement Assessment Committee approved.

Other measures implemented at the marina could include: installing bioswales for rainwater, water conservation, biodiversity protection, the promotion of environmentally friendly mobility or reduction of emissions and pollution equipment in the building or other innovations in the use of the building.





Water Quality

31 The water in the marina must be visually clean without any evidence of pollution, e.g. oil, litter, sewage or other evidence of pollution

Imperative

In order for the marina to comply with high environmental standards, it is very important that the marina and marina water are visually clean. The marina water should not contain oil spots, litter (bottles, cans, plastic, etc.), sewage or other noticeable signs of pollution. There must be no unnatural odours coming from the water.

Natural phenomena like driftwood, leaf litter, decaying algae, etc. might give the appearance of pollution in the water without this actually being the case. In such instances, information about these naturally occurring phenomena should be displayed on the information board.





Safety and Services

32 Adequate and well signposted lifesaving, first-aid equipment and fire-fighting equipment must be present. National authorities must approve equipment

Imperative

Accident prevention is paramount for safety. To help prevent accidents, marina management and staff should ensure that the marina facilities are properly maintained, national legislation is followed, and staff and users are well informed and/or trained about safety issues. It is strongly recommended that an assessment of the marina be conducted to study safety issues, such as the placement of boats in relation to the possible spread of fires.

If an accident does occur, the marina should have the necessary technical means or equipment to deal with it.

When addressing good safety practices at the marina, it is important to define the different actors and their role as well as the different actions required during an emergency. For example, a clear definition of roles should be provided to marina management, staff, and marina tenants. Clear definitions for prevention measures versus Rescue and Emergency measures is also necessary (see criterion 31).

Lifesaving equipment

The following general guidelines should be followed when considering water safety in a marina:

- **A person who falls in the water should be able to get out of the water.**
- **A person must be able to help or rescue a distressed person in the water without risking their own life.**

The required lifesaving equipment in the marina must (at minimum) include the presence of lifesaving rings and ladders. Other types of lifesaving equipment could include boathooks, rescue boats, or rescue stations at/near the marina.

The lifesaving equipment must be approved by the Lifesaving Society or comply with national standards. The equipment must be available in adequate numbers, easy to identify (well signposted), be easily accessible from all over the marina (not more than 200 metres from any point), and available 24 hours a day throughout the Blue Flag season. The placement of equipment must be in compliance with national legislation and must be indicated on the marina map.

Guidelines for ladders and public lifesaving equipment:

- **Placement (at minimum) should be every 25-50 metres from any waterfront point in the marina**
- **Equipment should be available on each pier**
- **Equipment should be painted for visibility (red, orange and with reflectors)**

Firefighting equipment

The firefighting equipment in the marina must (at minimum) include the presence of fire extinguishers, but could also include water hoses, fire carpets, etc. The firefighting equipment must be approved by a national firefighting association/organization/authority or comply with national standards..

The equipment must be available in adequate numbers, easy to identify (well signposted) and easily accessible from all over the marina (not more than 200 metres from any point). The placement of equipment must also be in compliance with national legislation. It must be available 24 hours a day throughout the Blue Flag season and the location of firefighting equipment must be indicated on the marina map.

Fire extinguishers must also be present at fuelling stations, near hazardous waste storage facilities and at locations where high temperature work is done.

Guideline recommendations:

- **Have handheld fire extinguishers placed every 25-50 metres and with at least one per pier**
- **There should be a fixed water supply (fire hydrant) easily accessible from the top of the piers**

When deciding on the size and type of extinguishers and their placement, consideration should be given to the size of the boats and the distance of the marina from a fire station.

First Aid

First aid equipment must be present at the marina and can be located in the marina office or at other facilities (shops, restaurants, etc.). The first aid equipment must be available at reasonable times (e.g. the operating hours of the marina office) and availability must be posted on the information board and marina map.

The contents of the first aid equipment box must comply with national legislation or meet the standards set by the Lifesaving Society, and must be regularly checked with items replaced as necessary. The availability and location of the first-aid equipment must be very clearly signposted on the information board and on the marina map.

Other

It is recommended that the entrance/exit to the marina be clearly marked with signs for boaters and that the marina be well-lit at night.

For dry docks and storage areas, it is recommended that boats be placed so that emergency vehicles can move between the rows. Firefighting equipment should be placed throughout the area. Local fire experts should be contacted for advice.

33 Marinas must have emergency plans in case of pollution, fire or other accidents

Imperative

If an accident or emergency does occur, the marina must have the necessary emergency plan in place to deal with it. The emergency plan must state what to do in case of pollution, fire or other possible accidents affecting the safety of the marina. The staff at the marina must be informed about the emergency plan.

The emergency plan for the marina can be specific for the marina, but can also be part of a larger harbour, municipal or regional emergency plan. Relevant authorities (local authorities, fire station, Red Cross, etc) must approve the emergency plan.

The emergency plan must at least include the following:

- **Identification of the people to contact in case of an accident**
- **Involvement of administration services and people necessary to intervene**
- **Procedures for the protection or evacuation of people at or near the marina**
- **Procedure of public warning and information.**

In the case of severe pollution coming from outside the marina, the emergency plan must provide procedures for the immediate removal of such pollution. In very severe cases, it may be necessary to withdraw the Blue Flag temporarily, explaining the reasons for the withdrawal on the information board.

34 Safety precautions and information must be posted at the marina

Imperative

Accident prevention is paramount for safety. In most cases, accidents that occur could have been prevented by the people involved. Thus, safety information and education for the marina users is very important.

General information about safety precautions must be posted at an easily accessible site at the marina, and on the information board. The safety precautions must include (at minimum) the following:

- **Information about the correct storage of hazardous and flammable wast**
- **Directions for filling gasoline/petrol tanks at the fuelling station**
- **Signs for safety hazards (e.g. unprotected piers)**



- **Prohibition of open fire or fireworks at the marina (unless there is a designated area or permission from the marina)**
- **Directions for the safe use of electrical outlets at the marina**
- **No swimming in the marina**
- **Information about the location of available public telephone, lifesaving, fire-fighting and first-aid equipment**
- **Information about how to use the above-mentioned equipment**
- **Details on how to warn other people about an unsafe situation**
- **Information about who to contact for further information about safety at the marina**
- **Information about relevant emergency telephone numbers (police, fire department, ambulance, marina manager)**

Other information could include:

- **Guidance that children should wear lifejackets in the marina**
- **Information about first-aid and lifesaving courses**
- **Guidance about the consumption of alcohol at the marina**
- **Information about how to prevent fire on individual boats**

35 Electricity and water is available at the berths, and installations must be approved according to national legislation

Imperative

Electricity and water must be available for the boats. The facilities must be available no more than 25 metres from the berths (except for boats not using electricity). There must be clear information about the conditions for using electricity and water, preferably also accompanied by information about energy and water saving.

All installations must be safe and approved according to national and/or international legislation. Public light must be available at marinas especially for safety reasons.

36 Wheelchair access and accessibility features should be in place.

Guideline

The marina must comply with provincial and national regulations regarding access and facilities for people with disabilities. The facilities for people with disabilities at a marina should include:

- **Access for disabled people to and around the marina (including the piers)**
- **Special car parking facilities for disabled people**
- **Access to sanitary facilities for disabled people**

Other facilities for disabled people in a marina could be:

- **Boating facilities for disabled people**
- **Access to marina offices, shops and restaurants in the marina**
- **Access to marina activities**





37 The marina management has a CSR policy, covering the areas of Human Rights, Labour Equity Environmental Education and Anti-corruption

Guideline

A CSR policy is a statement created by senior management of the marina, that indicates sustainability and CSR are an integral part of business. Marina management should create a Corporate Social Responsibility policy and statements with input from other staff and stakeholders. Every employee can provide input to the CSR policy. For example the marina might install a “suggestion-box” where staff and stakeholders can provide ideas on how to improve the sustainability of the marina.

CSR policy statements should define its objectives on sustainability and corporate social responsibility and it should be on display for the public. The statement should include:

- **general CSR objectives / sustainability outline policy concern for people / the planet / profit and structural part of business objectives,**
- **that implementation activities are in accordance with company policies and procedures established,**
- **general rules regarding the implementation of the sustainability policy of the company with regard to the fulfilment of legal requirements, staff training and recording / monitoring of the environmental performance of the company.**

The CSR policy should illustrate the environmental sustainability actions that will take place to reduce the consumption of gas, water, electricity and waste (prevention) for the following three years. The CSR policy should also include activities and measures regarding procurement, transport management, community involvement, etc.



38 The marina management takes at least two measures to encourage sustainable relationships in the immediate environment and to fulfill its commitment to perform better on social fields

Guideline

To implement this guideline criteria the marina management could do the following things:

- **promotes good relations of residents / stakeholders and is working on a long-term relationship with them (free facilities, organizing free events, provides an annual gift to compensate for any inconvenience)**
- **stimulates the local economy works with other local organizations such as local associations, nature organizations**
- **is actively involved in a charity or conservation organization**
- **provides free communication platforms for charity**
- **distributes sustainable gifts and / or sale items**
- **sponsors a social / community organization; directly or indirectly, materially or immaterially, or is committed to a social purpose**
- **participates actively in charity work**



Appendix A: Tools for establishing environmental plans [Criterion 10]

The marinas that participate in the Blue Flag program vary in size and capacity. The compliance with Criterion 9 can therefore take place in two ways: either a) through planning and performance/ implementation as requested in an environmental logbook system, or b) through implementing a proper environmental management system.

a) Environmental logbook system

In the environmental logbook system, the Blue Flag marina lists environmental goals. The marina management can choose the most relevant and important goals for the marina, but does not need to restrict itself to these. It is recommended that these goals are discussed with the national operator. What is essential is continual improvement. The marina is therefore required to set new and higher goals each year, though the marina can choose to expand or intensify efforts related to previously set goals.

In the application form for the coming season, the marina must provide information about the goals that the marina intends to fulfill. In the same application form, the marina should also report on goals achieved in the previous season by sending a status copy of the environmental logbook. The marina can change a goal during the season, but there should be a good reason for this noted in the environmental logbook. The marina is strongly advised to contact the national operator before changing a goal. In exceptional cases, if the marina has not fulfilled a goal and they can give a reasonable explanation for it, the National Jury might choose to give a dispensation. There is no stipulation that the marina has to fulfill the goal during the Blue Flag season; often it is preferable to carry out improvements ahead of the season.

Here are some suggestions from FEE for relevant goals:

Goal	Description	Further Information
1	Electricity	
1a	Replace energy consuming light bulbs	Install energy-saving bulbs
1b	Manage light at the marina	Install automatic light switches
1c	Replace old equipment and installations	Refrigerator, freezer, washing machine, etc
1d	Harness solar energy	Used to heat water
1e	Limit electricity on the jetty to 4 ampere	Visitors cannot use electrical heaters
1f	General investigation of electrical insulation at the marina	
2	Water	
2a	Install water saving equipment	Low-flow shower heads, and faucets



2b	Replace toilets, shower, taps, etc	Toilets with less flush water and/or toilets with dual flush (3 /6 litres)
2c	Infrastructure inspection	Waste pipe, water pipe, etc.
2d	Push buttons on taps and showers	
2e	Information about water saving	
2f	Install an environmental facility for receiving toilet waste	Compostable toilet, grey-water system
3	Buy and use environmentally friendly products	
3a	Buy environmentally friendly paint	
3b	Buy environmentally friendly soap for cleaning and washing	
4	Waste	
4a	Distribute recycling bags	For boat owners taking short trips and returning to the marina, the marina can offer garbage bags to collect their waste while boating.
4b	Litter management and disposal	Separate organic waste (for compost) and inorganic/toxic waste. Establish additional containers for sorting household waste.
4c	Establish compost bins	

The environmental logbook looks like this:

ENVIRONMENTAL LOGBOOK OF A BLUE FLAG MARINA

Name of Marina				Park Marina	
Name of responsible person:				Leslie Jones	
Year:				2020	
Activity	Date	Goal	Description	Persons involved	Documentation
Goal	15-3-2020	1a	Replace all bulbs in the marina with energy efficient bulbs	Leslie Jones John Robins	
Goal	15-3-2020	2a	Change to water conserving showers	Leslie Jones John Robins	



Action	15-05-2020	1a	The bulbs in the office, toilet and the club were changed. The bulbs outside will be changed during the season.	Leslie Jones	Copy of bills and photos
Action	15-05-2020	2a	Low flow shower heads were installed and at the same time we installed water saving taps (2b).	Leslie Jones	Copy of bills and photos
Action	27-07-2020	1a	The bulbs outside were changed.	Leslie Jones	Copy of bills and photos
Goals obtained	01-12-2020	1a 2a	Obtained Obtained		
Further Remarks	We expect to see savings on water consumption in 2020				

b) Environmental management system

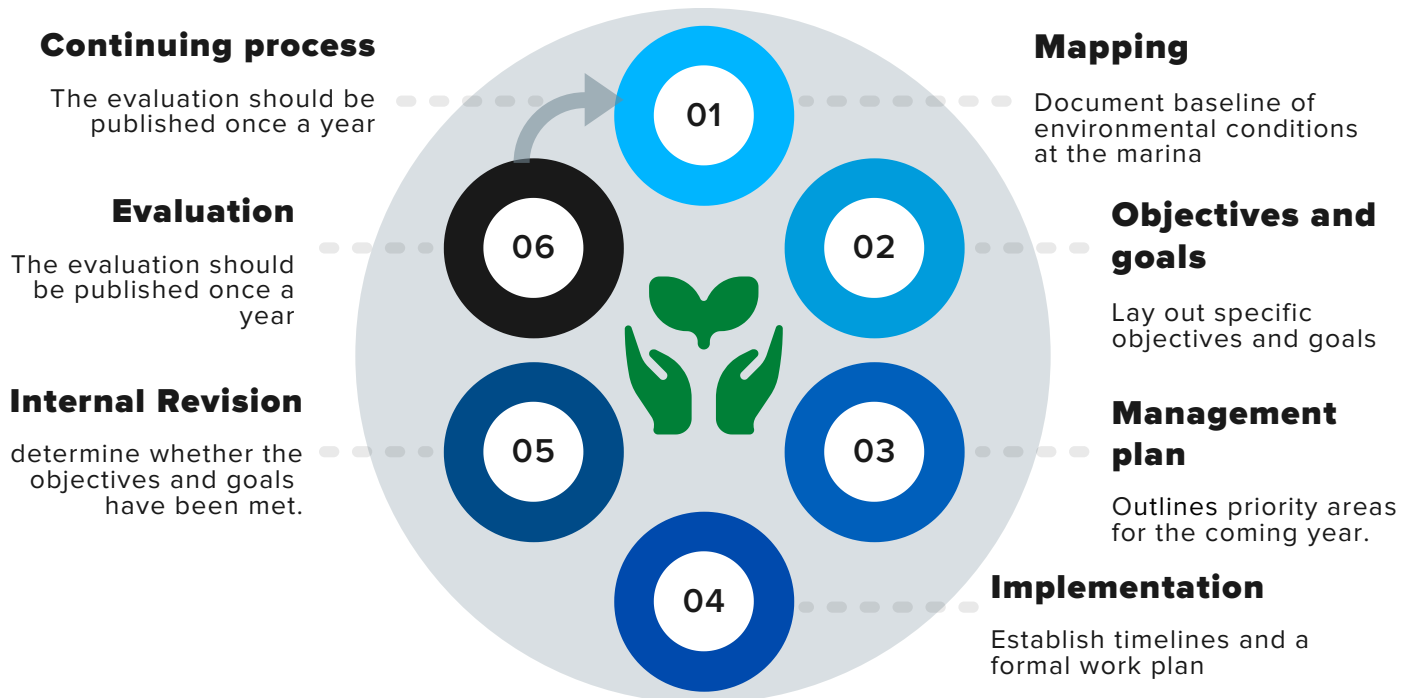
If a marina chooses to ensure compliance through an environmental management system, it can either be certified through the official systems (ISO 14001 or EMAS certification system), or the marina can choose a parallel environmental management system as described here.

It is always advisable to contact Swim Drink Fish for more information about environmental management systems. The environmental management system is an ongoing process.

The environmental management plan outlines how a marina can reduce its environmental impact and should inspire users and other stakeholders to make an active effort to protect the environment. The marina must prioritize its work and goals; however, there are some recommended areas (waste, water and energy consumption, health and safety issues, and the use of environmentally friendly products) which should be addressed.



THE CYCLE IS AS FOLLOWS:



MAPPING

Mapping out the baseline is an important starting point for planning and evaluating environmental work. It can be helpful to distinguish between the direct environmental impacts of the marina and those of the boats themselves.

To be able to easily recognize the achievements from previous years, marina operators must be systematic and transparent when evaluating environmental impacts. Most users can point out the most important ones. The following steps can be used in the overview mapping process:

- Develop an overview of the marina and its immediate surroundings.
- Try to determine the environmental impacts (in the form of energy, water, materials, waste, etc.) within a designated area of the marina.
- Examine the designated area: What impacts can be seen? Why are impacts occurring?

With a well-documented baseline of environmental conditions at the marina, individual issues can be dealt with. Identify the most important environmental impacts with a reasonable level of detail. Use pre-defined schemes when considering an impact to ensure that all relevant issues are considered. It can be useful to have two different evaluations, one for the marina (basic running of the marina) and one for the users (boaters).

When the management plan is produced for the first time, the most important environmental improvements made over the past years should be included (energy saving or water saving upgrades, for example). Information about these improvements can suggest new areas of improvement.



OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Once the baseline map has been created, it is time to consider how the marina can be managed to reduce its overall impact on the environment. The marina operator should lay out specific objectives and goals related to acceptable discharge, waste handling, energy consumption, etc. When deciding on objectives and goals, it is important to take into account the overall environmental policy of the marina.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

An environmental policy and the objectives stemming from the baseline map, inform priority areas for the coming year. During this process, the importance as well as significance of environmental impacts must be taken into account. When prioritizing, the following issues must be considered:

- Effect (What effects can be expected from the effort?)
- Economy (What does it cost? What savings can be expected? Are there external ways of financing the implementation?)
- Environmental awareness (What effect will your efforts have on the environment?)
- Occupational health (Are there benefits to occupational health?)

IMPLEMENTATION

Having decided what to do, timelines for implementation must be established. It can be helpful to draw up a formal work plan. The implementation of the management plan may require changes to the behaviour of users and marina staff, a change in the code of conduct, and updated instructions. It is important to inform everyone about the management plan and what is required from each party.

INTERNAL REVISION

The revision process is a way of checking in to determine whether the objectives and goals outlined in the management plan have been met. Therefore, the revision process should include:

- Checking that objectives are met
- Checking whether the expected results are achieved
- Investigating the reason for and extent of any variances from the management plan
- Noting any unforeseen impacts
- Recording observations

EVALUATION

The evaluation should be published once a year as a tool in the environmental management process, but also to promote the improvements externally. The evaluation could contain the following:

- A description of the marina's main impacts on the environment
- An outline of any environmental improvements (first year: previously taken initiatives, second year: since the management plan)
- The environmental policy and objectives stemming from the mapping process
- A copy of the environmental management plan



Once the baseline map has been created, it is time to consider how the marina can be managed to reduce its overall impact on the environment. The marina operator should lay out specific objectives and goals related to acceptable discharge, waste handling, energy consumption, etc. When deciding on objectives and goals, it is important to take into account the overall environmental policy of the marina.

CONTINUING THE PROCESS

After having been through the process the first year, the impacts of implementing the environmental management process can be evaluated and the process can begin again (at a deeper level than the previous year). Each year, the most significant environmental impacts must be determined, the management plan must be reviewed, and the observed impacts must be compared with the expected impacts. The environmental policy should be evaluated annually to determine whether changes or updates are required.

Appendix B: Black list Green Key cleaning products

This is the blacklist for cleaning products in the Green Key Programm. The Blacklist is prepared by the consultant organization, Ecoconso. This list covers multi-purpose and sanitation products (typical cleaning products). For cleaning in any other specific area that needs special products, one must check for compliance with national legislation.

Surfactants:

- Surfactants that are not readily biodegradable under aerobic condition
- Surfactants that are not biodegradable under anaerobic conditions and that are classified with H400/R50 (very toxic to aquatic life), Alkylphenolethoxylates (APEOs), onylphenolethoxylates (NPEOs) and derivatives.
- Quaternary ammonium compounds that are not readily biodegradable.

Sequestering or anti-scaling agents:

EDTA (ethylenediamine tetraacetate) and its salts, phosphates.

Acids:

Phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid.

Bases:

Ammonium hydroxide.

Solvents:

Detergents containing more than 6% by weight of VOCs with a boiling point lower than 150°C.

Chlorine:

- Reactive chloro-compounds (such as sodium hypochloride)

Conservators:

- Formaldehyde
- Antimicrobial or disinfecting ingredients added for other purposes than preservation
- Bioaccumulable preservatives classified as H410, H411, R50/53 or R51/53. Preservatives are not regarded as bioaccumulable if BCF < 100 (bioconcentration factor) or logKow < 3 (log octanol/water partition coefficient)



When the Blue Flag is raised at a beach or marina, it is a celebration of a community's commitment to meet the strict Blue Flag standards, protecting our coastal ecosystems and helping foster a culture of environmental stewardship. When tourists and residents see a Blue Flag, they know a beach or marina is meeting the same high standards as any other Blue Flag beach or marina around the world.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE BLUE FLAG
PROGRAM AND HOW TO
APPLY FOR THE AWARD:**

**WEBSITE: BLUEFLAG.CA
EMAIL: INFO@BLUEFLAG.CA
PHONE: 416-861-1237**



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