

SAFETY AT SEA - Reminder

Is Your Vessel's Certificate of Fitness Up to Date?

A valid Certificate of Fitness (COF) is an essential requirement for every vessel, regardless of how often it is used. We would like to remind all members that their vessels must have a current COF, even if the boat has remained in the marina and has not left its berth for several years.

Many owners mistakenly assume that a COF is only necessary when a vessel is actively sailing. However, maintaining a valid certificate is an important part of responsible vessel ownership and can have significant implications in the event of an incident.

One of the most important considerations is insurance. Should another vessel collide with yours, or if your vessel breaks free from its mooring and causes damage to other boats, marina infrastructure, or property, an expired COF could result in your insurance claim being rejected. In such circumstances, the financial consequences can be substantial.

Beyond insurance requirements, the COF process helps ensure that vessels meet minimum safety standards and that critical safety equipment is present, serviceable, and ready for use. Even vessels that remain berthed can be exposed to risks such as severe weather, equipment failure, or unforeseen emergencies.

Members are encouraged to check the validity of their vessel's COF and make arrangements for renewal if necessary. Staying compliant not only protects your investment but also contributes to the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the marina and on the water.

For more information on vessel listing, safety requirements, and Certificates of Fitness, visit the South African Sailing Vessel Listing and Safety section: <https://www.sailing.org.za/what-we-do/vessel-listing-and-safety>