

SAFETY BULLETIN 01 OF 2021:

Small Vessel Stability Guidance Published by the MCA

(suitable for any Power or sailing vessel)

This Safety Bulletin is issued following the publication of two new guides by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

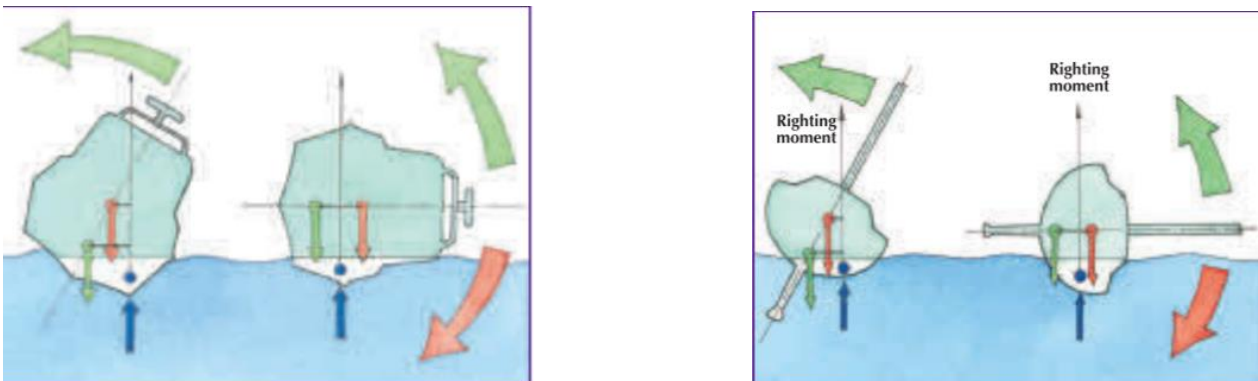
The attention of both leisure sailors and of Small Commercial Vessel operators and skippers is drawn to the following two guides, for power driven and sailing vessels respectively; which can be downloaded from the MCA website using the links below.

Stability Guidance Booklet for Powered vessels:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959132/46772_Stability_Guidance_Powered_p1-16.pdf;

Stability Guidance Booklet for Sailing Vessels:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/959133/46771_Stability_Guidance_Sailing_p1-20.pdf;



(Diagrams from the above guides courtesy of the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency)

Both these helpful guides have been produced in conjunction with; The Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA), the RYA, the RNLI, the Jubilee Sailing trust and stability experts 'The Wolfson Unit for Marine Technology and Industrial Aerodynamics'.

It is recommended that Owners complete pages 1 & 2 of the appropriate guide for their specific vessel and keep or display pages 1-4 available for immediate use aboard.

Summary:

A knowledge of basic stability principles together with how they apply, in basic terms, to your vessel is a key part of the safe operation of any vessel of whatever type or size.

These helpful guides include sections on

- General Cautions,
- actions to take before putting to sea,
- actions to take at sea in normal conditions,
- actions to take at sea in rough conditions,
- actions to take in an emergency

and

- additional guidance for skippers/masters, (including following collision)

11February2021