

Adventure Activities Licensing Service

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Association of Sail Training Organisations (ASTO)

The Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) is of the opinion that UK Sail Training organisations that are members of ASTO (Association of Sail Training Organisations) are not required to be licensed by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority so long as the vessels they use are certified as commercial vessels by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).

This exemption is a result of the definition of Watersports in the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations (AALR). Regulation 1 of AALR defines craft that fall within the remit of AALR as:

*(c) sailing boats, windsurfers, sailing dinghies or other craft whose principal means of propulsion is the wind **but excluding craft the construction, equipment and use of which is subject to a requirement for a certificate issued pursuant to the Merchant Shipping Act 1995(c) or any regulation or order made thereunder;***

MCA coding covers the following aspects:

- Vessel safety including construction, hull integrity, stability.
- Required Safety equipment carried on board
- Crew qualifications

In addition, the Licensing Service understands that ASTO requires that its members

- Have Safeguarding policies in place and review them regularly
- Select suitable staff and volunteers (including carrying out DBS checks)
- Appropriately handle concerns or allegations
- Have robust administration, including clear joining instructions, cancellation policies, and record keeping ashore.

Further details about ASTO membership can be found on <https://uksailtraining.org.uk/find-member-organisations/member-organisations>

For any questions or further details contact:

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