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Scholarly Analysis

Performance of Australia Maritime Safety Authority

Issues

What is the role of ATSB?

- Independent investigation of transport accidents and other safety occurrences;
- Promoting safety awareness, recording, research and analysis;
- Promoting knowledge, discussions and debates.

What role and purpose does AMSA play?

- Promote maritime safety and protection of the marine environment;
- Prevent and combat ship sourced pollution in the marine environment;
- Provide infrastructure to support safe navigation in Australian waters;
- Provide, on request, services of a maritime industry on a commercial basis; and
- Provide, on request, services of a maritime nature on a commercial basis to the Commonwealth and/or states and territories.

Studies On Performance of Australia Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)

The maritime authorities in all states and territories have produced booklets or guidelines phrased in plain English which reflect the applicable international codes, practices and regulations. These guidelines are primarily intended to assist boating licence candidates to understand such things as:

- a) the statutes and regulations;
- b) skippers' roles and responsibilities;
- c) types and uses of safety equipment;
- d) how to identify and cope with dangerous situations;
- e) how to react in emergency situations; and
- f) the need to maintain their vessels and equipment in a sound and seaworthy.

Importantly, these guidelines place a particular emphasis upon the Colregs or 'the Rules' and the serious responsibility these allocate to a boat skipper. These include very clear explanations of the following:

- the requirement to travel at a 'safe speed' and what 'safe speed' means;
- how to operate a vessel in poor visibility conditions;
- how to operate a vessel when in close proximity to other vessels;
- to identify and be aware of navigations hazards;
- to keep a good and proper lookout at all times.

Conclusion

AMSA must check and countercheck the skills of the skippers, crew and vessel masters, check the unsafe vessels before they go to sea, check the list of risk prepared by officers and crew and caution the those who operate the vessels not to speed over the limits. The list of shortcomings is endless, unless AMSA drills into the above concerned persons that '**conscience and passion**' are the keys to passengers' safety.