

Maritime Safety Queensland

BoatSafe Information Bulletin - 017

Requirement to hold a Blue Card

Purpose

This BoatSafe Information Bulletin (BIB) relates to Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) Working with Children Check (blue card) system.

Requirements

Situation

It has been advised by Blue Card Services, DJAG that under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* certain categories of employment require a blue card.

Blue cards are required for persons whose work involves teaching, coaching or tutoring children on a commercial basis. Under the legislation, children are defined as a person under 18 years of age. As the minimum age to hold a Recreational Marine Driver Licence and Personal Watercraft Licence is 16 years of age, it is likely that BoatSafe Training Providers will interact with children in their role.

The Blue Card legislative structure includes very specific requirements surrounding the application and issue of a Blue Card. These do relate to the ability to work with children, whilst waiting for the application process to be completed. Please take the time to review these requirements and understand how this may affect your current operations.

Required Action

The Blue Card Services website outlines the requirements for who is required to hold a blue card, and how to apply for a blue card. <https://www.qld.gov.au/law/laws-regulated-industries-and-accountability/queensland-laws-and-regulations/regulated-industries-and-licensing/blue-card-services>.

BTOs and BTPs who interact with children as part of their work under the BoatSafe program **must** ensure their obligations under the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* are met.

Further Information

For further information contact Blue Card Services, Justice Services on 1800 113 611 or 07 3211 6999 or visit www.qld.gov.au/bluecard.