



Designation: F3099 – 17a

Standard Practices for Parasailing¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3099; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides guidelines and procedures for the operation, maintenance, and inspection of parasail vessels, equipment, and associated activities including crew training and flying passengers aloft in a parasail.

1.2 *Units*—The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *Federal Regulations*:²

46 CFR Part 16 Chemical Testing

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The purpose of this standard is to establish procedures for water based parasailing activities.

4. Weather Monitoring and Limits

4.1 Vessels used for parasailing operations shall be equipped with a weather monitoring device.

4.1.1 The device may be fixed or portable, provided it is accessible by the vessel Master at the vessel's operating console.

4.1.2 The device shall be electronic with a visual display.

4.1.3 In restricted locations such as manmade lakes, the weather monitoring device, under 4.1, may be located within the immediate proximity of the operating area provided it is continually monitored by a company employee available to provide updated weather information to the vessel Master via radio or cellular phone.

4.1.3.1 A VHF radio, alone, is not acceptable for weather monitoring.

4.2 The vessel Master shall check and remain cognizant of current and forecasted weather conditions for the area of operation and account for the weather conditions for the duration of the parasail set (the "onboard" group of passengers on a parasail vessel).

4.3 *Weather Log*—The vessel Master shall maintain a weather log.

4.3.1 Log entries shall include: wind direction, wind speed, wave height, and sky conditions. A sample weather log is provided as enclosure (see Appendix X1).

4.3.2 A weather log may be in any format with the weather information recorded manually or electronically.

4.3.3 A legend shall be provided for any coded or abbreviated log entries.

4.3.4 Log entries shall be recorded directly by the vessel Master or may be relayed to another crewmember aboard or company employee ashore for permanent recording.

4.3.5 Weather conditions shall be recorded by the vessel Master at the start of the day and prior to each parasail set.

4.3.6 Weather logs and the recorded data shall be retained for a minimum of 1 year on board the vessel or on the premises of the place of business.

4.3.7 The weather log shall be made available for inspection by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) when requested.

4.4 *Weather Limits*:

4.4.1 Parasail operations shall not be conducted when the current observed weather conditions in the area of operation include:

4.4.1.1 Sustained wind speed greater than 20 mph.

4.4.1.2 Ground visibility less than 0.5 miles.

4.4.1.3 Thunder Storm within 7 miles.

4.4.1.4 Wind gust with a differential greater than 15 mph of the sustained wind.

4.4.1.5 Wind gust exceeding 25 mph.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F24 on Amusement Rides and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F24.65 on Parasailing.

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² Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

4.4.2 Parasail operations, suspended as a result of weather conditions exceeding the parameters enumerated in 4.4.1, shall remain suspended for a minimum of 30 min and will not resume until weather conditions are checked and recorded in the weather log. Parasail operations may resume when a minimum of 30 min has elapsed from the last monitored weather condition that exceeded the thresholds listed in 4.4.1.

4.4.3 Regions affected by prevailing Trade Winds may operate provided that:

4.4.3.1 The sustained wind direction is offshore for the Parasail operation, and

4.4.3.2 The parasail equipment in use is sufficiently rated for the wind conditions.

4.4.4 *Sea Conditions:*

4.4.4.1 Parasail operations in lakes, intercostal areas, and rivers shall not be conducted when the wave height exceeds 3 ft.

4.4.4.2 Parasail operations offshore and in open waters shall not be conducted when wave heights exceed 4 ft unless the period and wave height are within the following formula: 3 s period for each 1 ft of wave height (for example, 15 s period = 5 ft wave height).

4.4.4.3 In no case shall parasail operations be conducted in weather conditions that exceed the manufacturer's specified limitations for the equipment in use.

4.4.5 The vessel Master shall be responsible for assessing local weather conditions and determining if the weather conditions are within acceptable limits.

5. Equipment

5.1 *Materials and Manufacture:*

5.1.1 All parasail equipment in use, including but not limited to parasail canopies, parasail harness, or passenger bars, shall be properly designed for parasail operation.

5.1.2 Vessels used for parasail operations shall be specifically built for parasail operation.

5.1.3 Parasail equipment shall be operated, stowed, inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Equipment found in substandard condition shall be removed from the vessel for repair or destruction.

5.1.4 Parasail towlines shall be braided with a minimum rated tensile strength of not less than 6000 lb (26 689 N).

5.1.5 Parasail towlines shall not exceed 1200 ft in length.

5.2 *Equipment*—The following equipment shall be available onboard the vessel:

5.2.1 Weather monitoring equipment in accordance with 4.1,

5.2.2 Primary anchor,

5.2.3 Secondary anchor or equivalent device to augment the primary anchor,

5.2.4 Hydraulic parasail winch,

5.2.5 Hydraulic parasail winch brake,

5.2.6 Level-wind system or equivalent device to ensure even pay out and take up of towlines of greater than 300 ft in length,

5.2.7 Parasail deflating/arresting device,

5.2.8 Boat hook with a minimum reach of 10 ft,

5.2.9 Knife capable of cutting towline,

5.2.10 Parasail including canopy, harness, and

5.2.11 A United States Coast Guard approved Type III lifejacket, or equivalent, sized for all passengers going aloft.

5.3 *Maintenance and Inspection:*

5.3.1 *Maintenance:*

5.3.1.1 The vessel owner shall implement written maintenance and inspection procedures for the vessel and the parasail equipment including but not limited to: vessel propulsion & auxiliary machinery, communications, navigation, firefighting equipment, lifesaving equipment, structural integrity of the hull and load path affected by parasail operations, and all associated equipment used for parasailing (that is, chutes, harnesses, towlines, etc.).

5.3.1.2 All inspections and maintenance activities shall be recorded in a maintenance log (see 5.3.4).

5.3.2 *Pre-Flight Inspections*—The parasail harness webbing/stitching, passenger bar, canopy, shroud lines and towline shall be visually, and to the extent possible, physically inspected by a qualified crewmember prior to each day's parasail activities.

5.3.3 *Periodic Inspection:*

5.3.3.1 Parasail harness, passenger bars, and canopies shall be sent to the manufacturer every year to be overhauled and inspected. The manufacturer shall provide a letter or certification of the equipments' inspection and endorsement for subsequent use. This maintenance shall be recorded in a maintenance log (see 5.3.4).

5.3.3.2 A qualified vessel crewmember, as outlined in 7.2, may conduct periodic inspections as specified in 5.3.3.1, in lieu of the manufacturer inspection. The periodic inspection shall be documented and recorded as specified in 5.3.3.1.

5.3.4 *Record Keeping:*

5.3.4.1 The vessel owner shall maintain a log or otherwise record all maintenance and inspections performed on the vessel and its equipment.

5.3.4.2 Record keeping shall include the date the maintenance/inspection was performed and the name of the qualified individual or company who performed maintenance/inspection.

5.3.4.3 Recorded data shall be retained for a minimum of 3 years on board the vessel or on the premises of the place of business. It is recommended that records be maintained for the life of the equipment which would exceed 3 years (for example, parasail vessel, winches, and larger equipment).

5.3.4.4 The maintenance records shall be made available for inspection by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) when requested.

6. Operations

6.1 *Pre-Flight Operations:*

6.1.1 Crewmembers shall ensure passengers are properly fitted with a lifejacket prior to flight.

6.1.2 Crewmembers shall ensure passengers are within the manufacturer's minimum and maximum load capacity for the parasail equipment in use.

6.1.3 Crewmembers shall ensure passengers are properly fitted into the parasail harness. Harness waist strap shall be placed around the passenger's waist, not the lifejacket.