

Administrative Resolution No. (543) of 2007
Issuing the Implementing Bylaw of
Regulation No. (2) of 2007
Regulating the Operation of Water Buses on Dubai Creek¹

The Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Roads and Transport Authority,

After perusal of:

The powers vested in him pursuant to Law No. (17) of 2005 Establishing the Roads and Transport Authority;

Regulation No. (2) of 2007 Regulating the Operation of Water Buses on Dubai Creek; and
Executive Council Resolution No. (8) of 2006 Establishing the Agencies Affiliated to the Roads and Transport Authority and Approving their Corporate and Organisational Structures,

Does hereby issue this Resolution.

Article (1)

The words and expressions set out in this Bylaw will have the meaning indicated in Article (2) of the above-mentioned Regulation No. (2) of 2007, and the following words will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

Public Transport The Water Bus routes between approved Stations.
Routes:

Tourist Route: A tourist route for transporting passengers between Stations across Dubai Creek.

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¹*Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.*

Smart Cards: Season or prepaid cards.

Water Bus Registration and Licensing Requirements

Article (2)

A Water Bus operator must comply with the registration and licensing requirements prescribed by the Registration and Licensing Department of the Agency, namely:

1. The Water Bus purchase invoice attested by the competent entities must be presented.
2. The Water Bus certificate of manufacture approved by the competent entities must be presented.
3. The Water Bus ballast water management certificate approved by the competent entities must be presented.
4. The customs clearance certificate of the Water Bus must be presented if the Water Bus is imported from outside the UAE.
5. The Water Bus must pass the prescribed technical inspection to verify that it meets the technical specifications adopted by the Registration and Licensing Department of the Agency.

Article (3)

In addition to meeting any other technical specifications or any other equipment requirements prescribed by the Registration and Licensing Department of the Agency, a Water Bus must meet the following specifications and equipment requirements:

1. The Water Bus must be designed to operate properly in the United Arab Emirates, and must conform to the international passenger transportation specifications.
2. The Water Bus crew must comprise at least two (2) members.
3. The engine room must be equipped with an automatic CO₂ fire-fighting suppression system.
4. Smoke detectors must be provided and must be linked to lights and a speaker installed on the control panel.
5. Four (4) fire extinguishers with the following specifications must be on board:

- a. two (2) foam extinguishers with a capacity of nine (9) litres;
 - b. one (1) CO2 extinguisher with a capacity of five (5) kilograms; and
 - c. one (1) powder extinguisher with a capacity of two and a half (2.5) kilograms.
6. A first aid kit, in a size commensurate with the total number of passengers, must be available on board.
7. A 3,000,000 lumens handheld torch must be available on board;
8. Two (2) two-and-a-half kilogram lifebuoys that meet SOLAS requirements, and their accessories, must be available on board. The internal diameter of each lifebuoy must not be less than 400 millimetres and the external diameter must not be less than 800 millimetres;
9. Lifejackets, in a number equal to 120% of the number of the Water Bus's passengers, must be available on board.
10. The following distress signal equipment must be available on board:
 - a. one (1) hand flare; and
 - b. one (1) orange life smoke canister.
11. At least one (1) bilge pump (to pump waste water) must be available on board.
12. A suitable alarm device, which can send an alert when necessary, must be available on board.
13. A Global Positioning System (GPS) device must be available on board.
14. A VHF radio communication device that can send a GMDSS distress signal must be available on board.
15. A compass must be available on board.
16. The Water Bus must be fitted with navigation lights.
17. An Automatic Identification System (AIS) must be available on board.
18. An intercom system must be available on board.

19. Signs prohibiting smoking, alcoholic drinks, and pets on board, together with a safety plan indicating the location of on-board security and safety equipment, must be displayed in the Water Bus.
20. Waste storage facilities must be available on board, and the interior and exterior of the Water Bus must be cleaned on a regular basis.

Water Bus Crew Licensing Requirements

Article (4)

1. The crew members must complete STCW training courses.
2. The captain must hold a navigation licence, for Vessels of less than 50 feet in length, which is certified by the Registration and Licensing Department of the Agency.
3. The crew members must have valid residence visas sponsored by the operator.

Article (5)

Water Bus routes designated for the transportation of passengers across Dubai Creek are as follows:

1. Public Transport Routes:
 - a. Route (B1) from Al Sabkha Station to Bur Dubai Station, and vice versa;
 - b. Route (B2) from Bani Yas Station to Dubai Old Souk Station, and vice versa;
 - c. Route (B3) from Al Sabkha Station to Al Seef Station, and vice versa; and
 - d. Route (B4) from Bani Yas Station to Al Seef Station, and vice versa.
2. Tourist Route: This route is designated for the transportation of tourists from one Station to another across Dubai Creek.
3. The chief executive officer of the Agency may, where required, modify, add, or cancel any of the Public Transport Routes or the Tourist Route to improve the flow of transportation of passengers across Dubai Creek.

Article (6)

Women and children will have priority in sitting on the front seats of the Water Bus. In addition, appropriate seating will be provided for passengers with special needs.

Article (7)

Water Bus operating times in Dubai Creek are as follows:

1. Public Transport Routes: from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.;
2. Tourist Route: from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight; and
3. The chief executive officer of the Agency may amend the timings as required based on offer and demand and on the traffic flow of passenger transport in Dubai Creek.

Article (8)

The fees for using a Water Bus will be collected through any of the following methods:

1. direct payment through the machines provided by the RTA for this purpose;
2. prepaid Water Bus cards; and
3. payment using any other modern methods and technologies.

Article (9)

1. The chief executive officer of the Marine Agency will be authorised to grant up to twenty-five percent (25%) discount on Water Bus prepaid cards.
2. The Roads and Transport Authority will bear the cost of printing Smart Cards.
3. The Marine Agency will be authorised to invest in advertisements on prepaid cards and on the tickets issued by the Water Bus ticket machines in consideration of fixed fees.

Article (10)

When navigating, a Water Bus captain must comply with the rules of navigation and must abide by the following:

1. the routes designated for navigation between Stations;

2. the trip schedule approved by the Agency;
3. the speed limits prescribed for navigation across Dubai Creek;
4. using the utmost caution, care, and skill upon navigation and manoeuvring;
5. not approaching any other watercraft navigating in Dubai Creek;
6. avoiding wrongful overtaking of other watercraft during navigation; and
7. reducing the speed upon departure from and arrival in Stations.

Article (11)

A Water Bus captain is prohibited from navigating while under the influence of alcohol, any intoxicating substance, narcotics, or the like; and from staying overnight in the Water Bus or allowing others to do so.

Article (12)

The interior and exterior of the Water Bus must be cleaned and maintained regularly. In any event, the cleaning, maintenance, or repair works must be carried out only in the locations determined by the RTA.

Article (13)

The chief executive officer of the Agency will issue the instructions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Bylaw.

Article (14)

This Resolution will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is issued.

Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer

**Chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director
Roads and Transport Authority**

Issued in Dubai on 5 November 2007

Corresponding to 25 Shawwal 1428 A.H.