

## Welding and metal fabrication

Issued December 2010

*EPA 932/10: This information sheet is part of a series on environmental management practices for vessel and facility management on marine and inland waters. The information is extracted from the code of practice published in 2008.*

### Introduction

Zinc from anodes, which are used to reduce metal corrosion, and other metals such as copper from marine constructions, are commonly found in toxic concentrations in and around marinas. Aquatic organisms concentrate many of these pollutants in their biological systems. Sediments in water bodies can also accumulate these pollutants to higher levels than in the water column, and in turn act as a source of emission. Thus, tangible water quality improvements may not be obtained for some time after changes to behaviour until these secondary sources have dissipated.

### Who this applies to

- vessel operators
- slipway operators
- marina operators
- boat yard operators
- boat ramp operators
- boat and yacht club operators

### Operators must (required outcomes)

- 1 perform welding and metal fabrication in designated structures with waste containment

OR

undertake measures to control metal fragments and dust (particulates) from metal work that reflect the risk of environmental harm from the activity being performed (refer to recommended practices for options).

### Operators should (recommended practices)

- 2 erect screens to minimise the horizontal dispersal of metal fragments and seal floor to enable metal scraps and filings to be swept or vacuumed
- 3 conduct welding and thermal cutting in a well-ventilated area
- 4 use oxy-acetylene torches away from ignition sources such as oil, grease and rubber to avoid accidental fire and the generation of fumes and smoke
- 5 recycle scrap metal.

## References

EPA, *Code of practice for vessel and facility management (marine and inland waters)*,  
[www.epa.sa.gov.au/xstd\\_files/Water/Code%20of%20practice/vessels.pdf](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/xstd_files/Water/Code%20of%20practice/vessels.pdf).

## Useful websites

EPA Vessel and facility management pages, [www.epa.sa.gov.au/vfm](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/vfm).

## Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. This publication seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way. In doing so, however, some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that you seek information from the EPA itself regarding your possible obligations and, where appropriate, that you seek your own legal advice.

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## Further information

### **Legislation**

Legislation may be viewed at: <[www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au)>

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

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|--|------------|--|
| Service SA Government Legislation Outlet | Telephone: | 13 23 24   |
| Adelaide Service SA Centre               | Facsimile: | (08) 8204 1909   |
| 108 North Terrace                        | Website:   | < <a href="http://shop.service.sa.gov.au">shop.service.sa.gov.au</a> > |
| Adelaide SA 5000                         |            |  |

### **For general information please contact:**

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|----------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Environment Protection Authority | Telephone:          | (08) 8204 2004   |
| GPO Box 2607                     | Facsimile:          | (08) 8124 4670   |
| Adelaide SA 5001                 | Freecall (country): | 1800 623 445   |
|                                  | Website:            | < <a href="http://www.epa.sa.gov.au">www.epa.sa.gov.au</a> >         |
|                                  | Email:              | < <a href="mailto:epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au">epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au</a> > |

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