

Written by the Technical Committee of the film and video industry's joint sector-based working group and produced by the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail du Québec.



ASSOCIATION DES  
PRODUCTEURS DE  
FILMS ET DE  
TÉLÉVISION DU  
QUÉBEC

## Work on or near water

1. Before doing any work on a body of water or a river, the producer or the safety coordinator must obtain information from the appropriate authorities about the currents, natural hazards and the upstream conditions (dams, industrial or municipal wastewater effluents, risk of sudden flood). He must inform the representatives of the technicians, actors and subcontractors about them at least 48 hours before filming or recording.
2. The producer must have copies of the commercial licenses for the boats used by the workers. The producer must also have in his possession a **letter of compliance** for each of the boats used, proving that the boats have been inspected by a marine expert from Transport Canada. (To contact an expert at Transport Canada – Marine Safety: 1 888 649-6292.)
3. The producer must appoint a competent person whose tasks will include, among others, establishing a **description of the work performed near the water** as well as a **transportation plan**, obtaining the necessary permits and authorizations, coordinating transportation on the bodies of water, as well as determining the work platforms and boats that will be used by specifying their respective uses: transporting workers, transporting equipment, towing, rescuing workers.

When work is done on a body of water or a river, the safety coordinator, in collaboration with the aquatic or nautical rescue team, must establish a **rescue plan** and apply it as needed.

The description of the work, the transportation plan and the rescue plan must be made available to the CSST and be known by all workers before the start of filming or recording.

The **description of the work carried out near or on water** must include:

- the nature and the type of work;
- the name of the coordinator of the transportation and rescue plans;
- the number of workers;
- the work schedules;
- the location of the work;
- the type of body of water;
- the dates on which the work will begin and end;
- the means planned for determining the climatic conditions and water temperature;
- the work platforms and boats used, specifying their respective uses:
  - transporting workers,
  - transporting equipment,
  - towing,
  - rescuing workers.

The **transportation plan** must indicate the location of:

- work sites;
- sites designated for eating and resting;
- first aid stations;
- worker embarkation areas;
- boats for rescuing workers.

It must also specify:

- the names of the boat operators;
- the names of the workers who know the instructions to be followed in an emergency;
- the direction of movement of boats transporting workers.

The **rescue plan** must include:

- the emergency call code;
- the names of the boat operators and first aid providers;
- the type of boat used for worker rescue;
- the procedure to be followed for saving a worker who has fallen into the water.

4. The safety coordinator must make sure that the boat operators:
  - have certificates of nautical competency issued by Transport Canada for the type of boat used or piloted during filming or recording;
  - have the knowledge and skills required to safely assume their responsibilities on the chosen body of water or river;
  - use the facilities and moorings provided for worker embarkation and debarkation;
  - communicate to the workers the safety instructions to be followed on board;
  - ensure that every passenger wears a life jacket<sup>1</sup>;
  - remain seated for the duration of water travel.
5. If the technicians must embark on one or more boats with their equipment, these boats must have all the safety equipment specified in the *Small Vessel Regulations* of the *Canada Shipping Act*.
6. The safety coordinator must ensure that the rescue team is very familiar with aquatic or nautical lifesaving as well as the aquatic emergency care to be provided. He must also ensure that each member of this team has up-to-date certifications in first aid and the treatment of victims of near-drowning or hypothermia from recognized organizations such as the Red Cross or the Lifesaving Society, as well as certifications in aquatic lifesaving and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
7. When boats intended for rescue are necessary on the set, the safety coordinator must ensure that the rescue team consists of at least two people and that the operators of these boats have in their possession the letter of competency from Transport Canada for each of the boats, in addition to the certifications mentioned in point 6.
8. The producer, or the safety coordinator, must check whether there are hazards (submerged objects, contaminants, etc.) on the body of water or the river. If possible, everything that is not required for filming or recording must be removed from the body of water or river or its presence indicated. Identified hazards must be eliminated; otherwise the producer will have to choose another filming or recording location.
9. The producer must have the water analyzed by an independent laboratory at least 48 hours before the start of work on or near water. He must make the laboratory's written report available to the technicians at least 24 hours before filming or recording. If the analysis reveals contamination or impurities, the producer must take the necessary precautions so that the work is done safely.
10. Anyone working on or near water must wear a life jacket and, if possible, know how to swim. Anyone working in water must know how to swim and wear the necessary individual protective equipment.
11. The water temperature must always be taken into account, given the hazards inherent in immersion in cold water. Precautions must be taken to prevent accidents if there is a risk of hypothermia.
12. All products that can contaminate the water must be kept far away from it, including paints, solvents, gasoline, oil, etc.
13. Clean water must be available for personnel for washing, particularly post-immersion.
14. If there is traffic on the water, the authorities must take the necessary precautions to reduce and control it.
15. When work on a frozen body of water is being planned, the producer must ensure that the work organization as well as the methods and techniques used are safe and take into account the bearing capacity of the ice (consult the guide *Travaux sur les champs de glace* published by the CSST).

### References

Travaux à proximité de l'eau – Prenez tous les moyens qu'il faut pour que personne ne tombe à l'eau, CSST, (DC 100-490 (03-06)).

Centre d'expertise hydrique du Québec, ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs: [www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.cehq.gouv.qc.ca).

**Note.** – The information contained in this guideline is not exhaustive and does not replace current standards, laws and regulations.

1. The life jacket must keep the person's head above water and allow him to float without arm effort. It must comply with CAN/CGSB-65.7-M88 or, for a few exceptions, be accepted by Transport Canada.