

Buoy Mooring Authority Fact Sheet (Unrestricted Buoy Moorings)



Queensland Government
Maritime Safety Queensland

What is a Buoy Mooring Authority?

A buoy mooring authority is a permit granted by Maritime Safety Queensland under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* for a buoy mooring authority holder to occupy an allocated position. The granting of an application for a buoy mooring authority is a personal grant and does not confer legal title on any person. A buoy mooring authority cannot be sold (either with an approved vessel or as a mooring only), sub-leased, rented or used for financial gain.

An unauthorised or unmarked buoy mooring may be seized and removed. A person responsible for an unauthorised or unmarked buoy mooring may be liable for prosecution and/or costs incurred by Maritime Safety Queensland in removing the mooring device.

Unrestricted Buoy Mooring Authorities

- Unrestricted buoy mooring authorities are issued to support the business activities of established marine service providers and legitimate businesses. It is the responsibility of the buoy mooring authority holder to demonstrate to Maritime Safety Queensland that the unrestricted mooring is required and is used solely to support the nominated business activity.
- The buoy mooring **cannot** be provided to a third party for fee or reward; it cannot be rented, leased or otherwise dealt with by the authority holder for financial gain.
- The mooring buoy must be fluorescent pink or "Day-Glo" pink in colour. Where these colours are unavailable, orange is acceptable as a substitute colour.
- Examples of legitimate businesses which may use an unrestricted buoy mooring are:
 - Port authorities
 - Government agencies
 - Boat builders and repairers
 - Marine operators
 - Fishing or commercial fleet operators
 - Boating or fishing clubs wishing to offer moorings to members or legitimate visitors to the club
 - Individuals and companies who own more than one commercial vessel and intend to use the mooring on a rotational or occasional basis.
- As part of Maritime Safety Queensland buoy mooring auditing process, checks will be conducted at random of unrestricted buoy moorings to ensure that they are used in accordance with the intent of the Buoy Mooring Policy. This can occur at any time. Unrestricted buoy moorings being used in contravention of the Buoy Mooring Policy may be cancelled.

Buoy mooring identification

- The number issued for the buoy mooring authority is to be marked on the buoy attached to the mooring in plain characters not less than 50 millimetres high, with proportionate spacing and stroke width and must be black characters on a light background. If the buoy is of a solid nature, the number must be etched or branded on the buoy. Otherwise, the number may be painted onto the buoy.
- The number issued for a buoy mooring authority must be marked on the buoy attached to the mooring and maintained so as to be legible at all times. Buoys may be fitted with retro-reflective material to enhance visibility.
- Where a Regional Harbour Master has issued a grid number with a buoy mooring authority this must also be marked on the buoy attached to the mooring and maintained so as to be legible at all times.

Buoy mooring specifications

- Surface buoys attached to mooring tackle must be not less than 250 millimetres and not more than 800 millimetres in their greatest dimension. The buoy must be of adequate volumetric dimensions to support the mooring device in all conditions.
- The mooring device must be of sufficient length to ensure the buoy remains on the water's surface at all times.

- Surface buoys should be of a robust construction and preferably foam filled. Where a buoy is of synthetic construction, it should also be UV stabilised.
- Buoys should be spherical, teardrop shaped or the shape of two cones joined at their bases, and not of a shape so as to cause confusion with navigation markers.
- Special arrangements apply in the Gold Coast area for the type of buoy used. Contact the Gold Coast Office for further Information.
- Private buoys in Queensland coastal waters, jointly authorised by Maritime Safety Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, are to be colour-coded as per Maritime Safety Queensland's specifications.

Conditions of use

1. A 60% occupancy rate applies to all unrestricted buoy mooring authorities in high demand areas.
2. The "conditions of use" applicable to a buoy mooring authority may be amended upon renewal each year by the Regional Harbour Master in the interests of marine safety, efficiency and effectiveness of the maritime industry.
3. The Regional Harbour Master may cancel or refuse to renew a buoy mooring authority if there has been a significant change in circumstances affecting marine safety in the vicinity of the buoy mooring.
4. It is the responsibility of the buoy mooring authority holder to remove the mooring device within 14 days of a buoy mooring authority being cancelled or revoked.
5. A buoy mooring authority holder is responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the mooring is permanently secured in the approved position. The mooring must not be relocated without prior written consent from Maritime Safety Queensland. If the mooring is moved by natural occurrences, it is the buoy mooring authority holder's responsibility to reposition the mooring to the approved position.
6. It is the buoy mooring authority holder's responsibility to ensure the mooring device is maintained in a safe and serviceable condition at all times and is suitable for the type of vessel attached to the mooring.
7. The buoy mooring authority holder must ensure that the vessel complies with the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 2004*. Buoy mooring authority holders are reminded that under the *International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972*, all moored vessels are required to exhibit an all-round white light whilst secured to the buoy mooring. Penalties apply for non-compliance.
8. The buoy mooring authority holder is responsible for ensuring that the moored vessel manages on-board garbage and sewage and is compliant with the *Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995*. It is the buoy mooring authority holder's responsibility to make arrangements for the removal of ship-sourced waste.
9. Failure to comply with the "conditions of use" or directions of a Regional Harbour Master may result in the buoy mooring authority holder being liable for prosecution and/or any costs incurred by Maritime Safety Queensland.
10. The buoy mooring authority holder is responsible for keeping Maritime Safety Queensland informed of any change to their contact details or if they cease to use a buoy mooring. Otherwise, the buoy mooring authority may expire or be cancelled by Maritime Safety Queensland without further notice.

Renewal of buoy mooring authority

- Buoy mooring authorities are subject to annual renewals and fees.
- Authority holders will be required to sign a "Conditions of Use" form (this may be on your renewal notice) indicating that they understand the conditions placed on the buoy mooring authority each time it is renewed.
- Authority holders will be required to submit a written mooring condition report each time a buoy mooring authority is renewed. The report can be made by a contracted mooring inspector or by signing a declaration on the renewal notice. The mooring device should be inspected each year to determine that it is in the correct location, is in a safe and serviceable condition and is suitable for the type of vessel attached to the mooring.
- If the "Conditions of Use" form and mooring condition report are not submitted with each renewal application, the buoy mooring authority may not be renewed and you may be required to remove the mooring tackle.

Cancellation of buoy mooring authority

- If a buoy mooring is no longer required, the authority holder must write to Maritime Safety Queensland advising that the authority is no longer required. The authority holder must remove the buoy mooring within 14 days after its expiry or cancellation pursuant to section 215(3) of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004*. An authority holder who does not remove the buoy mooring may be liable for prosecution and/or any costs incurred by Maritime Safety Queensland.