

Blue Flag Criteria – what is required for beaches and marinas?



Blue Flag For Beaches

The award of a Blue Flag beach is based on compliance with 32 criteria covering the aspects of:

- 1) Environmental Education and Information
- 2) Water Quality
- 3) Environmental Management
- 4) Safety and Services



All Blue Flags are only awarded for one season at a time.

If some of the imperative criteria are not fulfilled during the season or the conditions change, the Blue Flag will be withdrawn.

Environmental Education and Information (6 criteriae)

1. Information about the Blue Flag programme displayed.

2. Environmental education activities offered and promoted to beach users.

3. Information about bathing water quality displayed.

4. Information relating to local eco-systems and environmental phenomena displayed.

5. A map of the beach indicating different facilities displayed.

6. A code of conduct reflecting appropriate laws governing the use of the beach and surrounding areas displayed.



Water Quality (5 criteriae)

1. The beach must fully comply with the water quality sampling and frequency requirements.
2. The beach must fully comply with the standards and requirements for water quality analysis.
3. No industrial, waste-water or sewage-related discharges should affect the beach area.
4. The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the microbiological parameter faecal coli bacteria (*E.coli*) and intestinal enterococci/streptococci.
5. The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the following physical and chemical parameters.



Environmental Management (14 criteriae)

1. Beach management committee established by the local authority/beach operator
2. Local authority/beach operator complying with all regulations affecting the location and operation of the beach.
3. Beach must be clean.
4. Algae vegetation or natural debris should be left on the beach (**providing they not jeopardize health and safety**)
5. Waste disposal bins/containers available in adequate numbers and regularly maintained.
6. Facilities for the separation of recyclable waste materials available
7. Adequate number of toilet or restroom facilities provided.



Environmental Management (14 criteriae)

8. Toilet or restroom facilities be kept clean.

9. Toilet or restroom facilities with controlled sewage disposal.

10. No unauthorised camping or driving and no dumping.

11. Access to the beach by dogs and other domestic animals strictly controlled.

12. All buildings and beach equipment properly maintained

13. Coral reefs in the vicinity of the beach must be monitored

14. A sustainable means of transportation promoted in the beach area.



Safety and Services (7 criteriae)

1. Adequate number of lifeguards and/or lifesaving equipment available.
2. First aid equipment available
3. Emergency plans to cope with pollution risks in place
4. Management of different users and uses of the beach so as to prevent conflicts and accidents
5. Safety measures in place to protect users of the beach
6. Drinking water supply available
7. At least 1 Blue Flag beach in each municipality must have access and facilities provided for the physically disabled.



Blue Flag For Marinas

The award of a Blue Flag marina is based on compliance with 24 criteria covering the aspects:

- 1) Environmental Education and Information
- 2) Environmental Management
- 3) Safety and Services
- 4) Water Quality



All Blue Flags are only awarded for one season at a time.

If some of the imperative criteria are not fulfilled during the season or the conditions change, the Blue Flag will be withdrawn.

Environmental Education and Information (5 criteriae)

1. Information about the Blue Flag programme displayed
2. A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws governing the use of the marina and surrounding areas displayed
3. Blue Flag marina programme and/or the Blue Flag marina criteria displayed
4. At least 3 environmental education activities offered to the users **and staff** of the marina
5. The individual Blue Flag for boat owners proposed



Environmental Management (12 criteriae)

1. Management committee established to institute environmental management systems and conduct regular environmental audits of the marina facility
2. Environmental policy and environmental plan, including references to water management, waste and energy consumption, health and safety issues, and the use of environmentally-friendly products wherever possible
3. Adequate and properly identified, segregated containers in place for the storage of hazardous wastes to be handled by a licensed contractor
4. Adequate and well-managed litterbins and/or garbage containers in place for wastes handled by a licensed contractor
5. Facilities for receiving recyclable waste materials (bottles, cans, paper, plastic, organic material, etc.)
6. Bilge water pumping facilities available



Environmental Management (12 criteriae)

7. Toilet tank waste reception facilities present

8. All buildings and equipment properly maintained and be in compliance with national legislation.

9. Adequate, clean and well sign-posted sanitary facilities in place and provide drinking water. Sewage disposal is controlled and directed to a licensed sewage treatment

10. If boat repairing and washing areas, no pollution must enter the sewage system, marina land and water or the natural surroundings

11. Sustainable transportation promoted

12. Parking/driving not permitted in the marina, unless in specific designated areas



Safety and Services (5 criteria)

1. Presence of adequate and well signposted lifesaving, first-aid equipment and fire-fighting equipment approved by national authorities
2. Emergency plan in case of pollution, fire or other hazards available
2. Safety precautions and information posted
3. Electricity and water installations at the berths approved according to national legislation
4. Facilities for disabled people in place
5. Map indicating the location of the different facilities



Water Quality (1 criteria)

The water in the marina must be visually clean without any evidence of pollution, *e.g.* oil, litter, sewage or other evidence of pollution

