

SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE DE SAUVETAGE EN MER

Association reconnue d'Utilité publique par décret du 30 avril 1970



Héritière de la Société Centrale de Sauvetage des Naufragés
et de la Société des Hospitaliers Sauveteurs Bretons



Dear Sir,

You have just been assisted by the volunteers of the French Sea Rescue Society (SNSM), a charity officially recognized of “public utility”, the mission of which is to save lives at sea.

- Saving the persons is free of charge.
- Assistance to property is charged.

1. PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE

- I. Under the direction of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCC/CROSS in France), the SNSM lifeboats assist the vessels at sea with persons in danger aboard, or in trouble.

During these operations, expenses are involved, the recovery of which is provided for in the law, under the supervision of the ministry in charge (Ministry of Transport, Department of Maritime Affairs).

- II. Therefore, **the SNSM is empowered to get a refund on these expenses**, under the following conditions:

- ⇒ The expenses caused by the sorties during which property (boat, sailing board, kayak..) has been assisted can give rise to payment.
- ⇒ The expenses refundable are:
 - expenses of fuels and lubricants,
 - maintenance costs and provision for depreciation of the lifeboat,
 - expenses made by the volunteers themselves.

These expenses are evaluated on an inclusive basis, according to the hourly scale of charge below, established by the SNSM and the Maritime administration, based on the overall lengths of the lifeboat and the boat assisted.

Repair or replacement of damaged, destroyed, lost or worn-out materials may be demanded.

In a situation where the vessel assisted would be in real danger to be lost, the payment for assistance may be based on the value of that vessel (law 7th July 1967). To apply this exceptional procedure remains the decision of the head of the SNSM.

- ⇒ An “**intervention form**” is established by the lifeboat station, making mention of the help brought, and the justified amount of money asked for. This form is delivered to the beneficiary of the service after being signed, and is considered as acknowledgement of the service executed.

Your attention is kindly drawn to the conditions of payment, which must take place as soon as the operation is over, without waiting the possible payment by the insurance company. Delays may expose you to the intervention of the Maritime administration, and indeed to legal recovery actions, initiated by the head of SNSM, which might end in a seizure of the assisted vessel.

The SNSM counts, from the persons assisted, on the moral duty of paying a debt for maritime assistance, and doing so to demonstrate their solidarity with the community of seafarers and sea rescuers.

Hourly scale of charge for the assistance to property

(In Euros, 1st August 2008)

Hour started is entirely due

L = Lifeboat Length (metres)	L = Length of the vessel assisted (metres)		
	L < 12 m	12 m < L < 25 m	L > 25 m
L < 7 m	150	170	190
7 m < L < 8,9 m	160	180	210
8,9 m < L < 13 m	255	285	330
L > 13 m	345	425	500

The inclusive payment for the recovery of a sailing board, or a kite-surf, have been set to 100 Euros, whatever the means used and the duration of the operation.

The VNM (jet-skis) are considered as boats of a length below 12 metres.

