

For Immediate Release
17-091

October 10, 2017

BC FERRIES ASSISTS CUSTOMERS WITH NEW REGULATION RESTRICTING PASSENGERS FROM CLOSED CAR DECKS

VICTORIA – Tomorrow marks the implementation of Transport Canada regulations that restrict passengers from remaining in their vehicles on closed car decks. BC Ferries understands this change impacts customers that need to remain in their vehicles. BC Ferries wants to help where possible.

Customers needing to remain in their vehicles should identify themselves at the ticket booth when they arrive, so BC Ferries can try and accommodate their request. BC Ferries' staff at the terminals and on board the vessels will assist customers wherever possible with the new policy to ensure a smooth implementation.

On larger vessels that have both an upper and lower vehicle deck, customers will be able to remain in their vehicles on the upper vehicle deck only. For customers with special circumstances that need to remain in their vehicles on these vessels, BC Ferries recommends they arrive at the terminal early, so staff can make every effort to accommodate their request.

“We recognize this regulation will be a change for some customers and our staff is ready to help wherever possible,” said Captain Jamie Marshall, BC Ferries' Vice President of Fleet Operations. “Our employees will do their best to accommodate customers who need to remain in their vehicle for a variety of circumstances that may preclude them moving up to the passenger decks.”

BC Ferries kindly thanks all customers for complying with this new requirement.

A closed vehicle deck is a space that is closed at both ends with limited side openings. The Transport Canada regulation addresses safety concerns. Access restrictions to closed vehicle decks will not apply when passengers are directed by announcement to return to their vehicles before the vessel docks.

This new policy applies to the lower vehicle decks on the following vessels:

- Spirit of British Columbia
- Spirit of Vancouver Island
- Coastal Renaissance
- Coastal Inspiration
- Coastal Celebration
- Queen of Alberni
- Queen of Coquitlam
- Queen of Cowichan
- Queen of New Westminster
- Queen of Oak Bay

- Queen of Surrey
- Salish Orca
- Salish Eagle
- Salish Raven
- Northern Expedition
- Northern Adventure
- Northern Sea Wolf

These vessels generally operate on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay, Tsawwassen – Duke Point, Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay, Horseshoe Bay – Langdale, Powell River – Comox, Tsawwassen – Southern Gulf Islands, Port Hardy – Prince Rupert and Prince Rupert – Haida Gwaii routes. The policy also applies to the vessel that will operate the Port Hardy – Bella Coola route starting next summer.

The applicable Transport Canada regulation is Section 152 of the Cargo, Tackle and Fumigation Regulations under the Canada Shipping Act. For more information, visit tc.gc.ca.

- 30 -

Media Contact:
BC Ferries, Media Relations
Victoria: (250) 978-1267

Customer Contact:
Victoria: (250) 386-3431
Toll-free: 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779)