

Law on ships in need

Official reference	Wet van 27 juli 2011 betreffende de bevoegde instantie voor de opvang van schepen die bijstand behoeven	
Relevant dates	Document	27/07/2011
	Publication	12/08/2011
	Entry into force	30/11/2010
Policy level	Federal	
Type of instrument	Law	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Governor of West Flanders (competent of the coordination of assistance by the Coastal guard)	

// abstract:

This law provides for the partial implementation of the *Monitoring Directive* (2002/59/EC; p.78). The law designates the governor of West Flanders as the competent authority for the accommodation of ships in need for assistance. The competent authority is assisted by representatives of the federal services responsible for maritime matters, and takes action in the event of a threat to maritime safety and protection of the environment. Moreover, the rules and procedures are laid down that need to be followed by the competent authority. The law describes the specifications that have to be met for the accommodation of ships in need of assistance (identification data of the competent authority, information on coastline, evaluation procedures, means and equipment of assistance, etc.). The operational plans fit into the framework of the cooperation agreement between the federal state and the Flemish Region regarding the establishment of the Coastal guard and cooperation within this structure. Lastly, it is stipulated that the competent authority decides on the acceptance of a ship in a place of refuge.