

To Whom it May Concern:

At Boston Duck Tours, the safety of our Guests and our Employees is our number one priority and we will continue to work closely with our partners at the US Coast Guard, Department of Public Utilities, Boston Hackney Division and Department of Transportation to ensure we maintain these safety standards.

Almost all amphibious vehicle companies, including Boston Duck Tours, are independently owned and operated. We have been in existence since 1994 and have never had an injury on the Charles River. We employ over 200 people including Mechanics, Drivers, Narrators, Guest Service Representatives, Sales Representatives and Managers. We have carried almost 11.5 million guests since inception in 1994 and average about 600,000 each season.

Vehicle Design – Truck Ducks

Our Ducks are not WWII DUKWs. Our fleet is comprised of what are known as “Truck Ducks”, which are based off a much larger and stronger chassis. They are purpose-built for tourism and are not a converted surplus vehicle. The hulls are all brand-new construction and were designed for much greater stability, much greater capacity and much greater safety. The hulls themselves are heavier gage than a WWII Duck and all the old corrosion and stress points have been eliminated. Our oldest Truck Duck was built in 2006 and the newest was built in 2014. They share no parts with a WWII DUKW, and are a “Duck” in name only.

The Ducks have a fire suppression system built into the hull, in addition to portable fire extinguishers on each Duck. Each Duck has multiple bilge pumps and high-water alarms. They also have fire alarms. Our Ducks are equipped with both a company radio and a VHF Marine Radio. The VHF Marine Radio has an emergency frequency that is monitored by the United States Coast Guard and the Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit. Our radios are tuned to that frequency while on the water.

We are inspected by the US Coast Guard every spring before our season begins and we meet or exceed their regulations. We are also inspected by the Department of Public Utilities (they are the bus inspectors in our state) every spring. We have an outside audit of our fleet done every year by a qualified outside inspection firm. In addition, all of our 28 Ducks are inspected twice daily by our Mechanics and once prior to departure by our licensed Class B Commercial Drivers who complete a Department of Transportation required inspection check list.

Staffing

Each vehicle has both a Driver and a Captain. All of our Captains have Merchant Marine licenses issued by the US Coast Guard. Captains are also required to have obtained a Transportation Workers Information Card (TWIC) issued by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Each Captain and Driver are subject to a Criminal Offender Record

Information (CORI) check before hiring and every year thereafter. Each Driver holds a Massachusetts Commercial Drivers License (CDL), with a passenger endorsement. Captains and Drivers receive CPR training once a year and First Aid training every two years. Every Captain and Driver is required to participate in safety drills throughout the year. They all participate in a mandatory drug testing program.

Canopy Roofs

Most of our Ducks have retractable canopies which act as a means of egress. In addition, we have Velcro windows that can be unzipped or pushed out easily. Finally, we have a windshield that can be lowered for egress. These features have all been approved for use by the US Coast Guard.

Operating Environment

At Boston Duck Tours, we operate on the Charles River, a protected waterway with depths averaging about 16 feet. Since the River is narrow, if there was ever a water emergency, the Duck could easily ground itself on the river bank within minutes. There is rarely commercial traffic on the Charles, rather mostly pleasure crafts like sailboats, kayaks and canoes.

We continuously monitor the weather conditions from our three locations. We do not allow our DUCKs to go into the Charles River if there is lightning in the area or if conditions are forecasted to exceed our operating parameters set by the US Coast Guard. Our Certificates of Inspection (COI) states we may not operate if winds are over 25 knots or waves are over one foot. With respect to life jackets, just like any other licensed passenger vessel, we follow the regulations of the US Coast Guard which requires that we have a life jacket on board for each passenger. They are readily available above each seat in the event of a water emergency.

Click here to see a video regarding Boston Duck Tour vehicle safety:

<https://youtu.be/DSLivOAASnE>.

Questions regarding Safety can be sent to info@BostonDuckTours.com