

## **BLUE FLAG DRAFT US CRITERIA SUMMARY**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION**

- Criterion 1. Information about the Blue Flag Programme must be displayed.
- Criterion 2. Environmental education activities must be offered and promoted to beach users.
- Criterion 3. Information about bathing water quality must be displayed.
- Criterion 4. Information relating to local eco-systems, environmental elements and cultural sites must be displayed.
- Criterion 5. A map of the beach indicating different facilities must be displayed.
- Criterion 6. A code of conduct that reflects appropriate laws and/or regulations governing the use of the beach and surrounding areas must be displayed.

### **WATER QUALITY**

- Criterion 7. The beach must fully comply with the water quality sampling and frequency requirements.
- Criterion 8. The beach must fully comply with the standards and requirements for water quality analysis.
- Criterion 9. Industrial, waste-water or sewage-related discharges must not affect the beach area.
- Criterion 10. The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for the microbiological parameter *Escherichia coli* (faecal coli bacteria) and intestinal enterococci (streptococci).
- Criterion 11. The beach must comply with the Blue Flag requirements for physical parameters.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

- Criterion 12. The local authority/beach operator should establish a beach management committee.
- Criterion 13. The local authority/beach operator must comply with all laws and/or regulations affecting the location and operation of the beach.
- Criterion 14. Sensitive areas must be managed.
- Criterion 15. The beach must be clean.
- Criterion 16. Algal vegetation or natural debris must be left on the beach.
- Criterion 17. Waste disposal bins/containers must be available at the beach in adequate numbers and they must be regularly maintained.
- Criterion 18. Facilities for the separation of recyclable waste materials must be available at the beach.
- Criterion 19. An adequate number of toilet or restroom facilities must be provided.
- Criterion 20. The toilet or restroom facilities must be kept clean.
- Criterion 21. The toilet or restroom facilities must have controlled sewage disposal.
- Criterion 22. There must be no unauthorised camping or driving and no dumping on the beach
- Criterion 23. Access to the beach by dogs and other domestic animals must be strictly controlled.

Criterion 24. All buildings and beach equipment must be properly maintained.

Criterion 25. Marine and freshwater sensitive habitats (such as coral reefs or sea grass beds) in the vicinity of the beach must be monitored.

Criterion 26. A sustainable means of transportation should be promoted in the beach area.

### SAFETY AND SERVICES

Criterion 27. Appropriate public safety control measures must be implemented.

Criterion 28. First aid equipment must be available on the beach.

Criterion 29. Emergency plans to cope with pollution risks must be in place.

Criterion 30. There must be management of different users and uses of the beach so as to prevent conflicts and accidents.

Criterion 31. There must be safety measures in place to protect users of the beach and free access must be granted to the public.

Criterion 32. A supply of drinking water should be available at the beach.

Criterion 33. At least one Blue Flag beach in each municipality must have access and facilities provided for the physically disabled.