

September 17, 2024
Kyushu Railway Company

Concerning the “Order to Ensure Safety of Transportation” and “Order to Dismiss the Chief Safety Management Officer and the Vessel Operations Manager”

Today, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism issued to JR Kyushu Jet Ferry Inc. an “Order to Ensure Safety of Transportation” and an “Order to Dismiss the Chief Safety Management Officer and the Vessel Operations Manager.” The orders state that JR Kyushu Jet Ferry Inc. has been found to be in violation of related laws, regulations, and safety management rules, and call upon the company to take immediate remedial measures to prevent recurrence and ensure transportation safety. Further, the company is ordered to dismiss the chief safety management officer and the vessel operations manager.

We deeply apologize for the inconvenience and concern this situation may cause to our customers and other concerned parties. Details are provided below.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) conducted an investigation of JR Kyushu Jet Ferry Inc. beginning August 6, 2024, in accordance with Paragraph 1, Article 25, of the Marine Transportation Act. In this investigation, MLIT found that the company had violated the Ship Safety Law and Safety Management Regulations in its liner service business for overseas passengers. To prevent the recurrence of such a situation and ensure transportation safety, the company has been ordered by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism to take immediate remedial measures and report on the situation by October 31, 2024, in accordance with Paragraph 2, Article 19, of the Marine Transportation Act.

The investigation also found fault with the Chief Safety Management Officer, Mr. Hitoshi Ogawa, Director and General Manager of the Planning Department, and the Vessel Operations Manager, Mr. Kosuke Shibata, Director and General Manager of the Vessel Operations Department, for failing to comply with applicable laws and regulations and safety management rules, and neglecting to perform their duties properly, and determined that their continued performance of their duties could seriously impair the safety of the company’s transportation. Accordingly, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism ordered the company to terminate their employment by October 31, 2024, in accordance with Paragraph 3-7, Article 10, of the Marine Transportation Act.

We take this order from the MLIT very seriously, and we will cooperate with the investigation by the third-party committee to investigate the cause, and by working to prevent recurrence, we will rebuild our safety management system and work to restore the trust of our customers and all other concerned parties.