

## **FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

### **Learning Objectives:**

As a result of this session the participant should:

- Know the requirements of boat registration
- Know the required equipment needed onboard
- Recognize that the required equipment is not enough for safe boating
- Be familiar with U.S. Coast Guard safety standards
- Be informed of laws enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard and other law-enforcement agencies
- Be aware of the existence of State and Local Regulations

### **Resources:**

Boating Skills & Seamanship, eleventh Edition, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Chapter 1,2  
The Squadron Boating Course 2001, The United States Power Squadrons, Section 10  
Chapman Piloting Seamanship & Small Boat Handling, 62<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Hearst Marine Books, Chapter 3

### **Material and Equipment:**

Equipment Items

Overhead Projector, as required by instructor

1 Personal Floatation Device for Class 2, Class 3, Class 4

Material Items

Provide one copy for each participant:

Handout Packet (contains the following 3 items)

U.S. Coast Guard Minimum Required Safety Equipment Handout

State Boating Law Administrators Handout

U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Handout

CG-3865 Accident Report Form (Rev. 9/95)

USCG Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check Form 204(7-2000)

### **Instructor Qualification:**

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Trainer presence required for USCGAUX Certificate Program

U.S. Power Squadron Instructor or council equivalent

**Time Allocation:** 1.5 Hours

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**Session Plan:**

**Classroom Session**

**1. Module Introduction.**

- a. Introduce yourself and each member of the module staff.
- b. Explain the objectives of this module.
- c. Distribute the handout packet

**2. Required Equipment.** Refer to the “U.S. Coast Guard Minimum Required Safety Equipment” handout in the packet.

- a. Explain that a boat must be registered in the state of its principal use.
- b. Describe the registration format as two letters to identify the state followed by a combination of numbers and letters to identify the boat and a state registration sticker.
- c. Explain that federal regulations classify motorboats into four classes according to length and that required equipment is different for each class.
- d. Explain the fire classifications and the types of fire extinguishers used to extinguish each class of fire. Describe the care, treatment and use of fire extinguishers.
- e. Explain the five types of Personal Flotation Device (PFD). Show the three PFD classes.
- f. Explain that flame arrestors are required for all gasoline engines, except outboard motors.
- g. Explain that there are two types of visual distress signals, pyrotechnic (resemble fireworks) and non-pyrotechnic (flags, mirror, dye markers, and distress lights).
- h. Explain that navigation rules require boats to properly display lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

*[Explain that detailed information of required use of lights are covered in the Rules of the Road education module.]*

- i. Explain that the navigation rules require a boat to use sound signals in periods of limited visibility and in meeting, crossing, and overtaking situations.

*[Explain that detailed information of required use of sound signals are covered in the*

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*Rules of the Road education module.]*

**3. Recommended Equipment.**

- a. Describe manual, electric or gas trolling motor as a second means of propulsion.
- b. Describe manual and/or electric de-watering devices.
- c. Describe briefly other equipment (First Aid Kit, Anchors, VHF-FM radio, Tools, Spare parts, Boat-hook, and Fenders).

**4. USCG Boating Safety Standards.**

- a. Explain that the Hull Identification Number (HIN) consists of a Manufacturing ID Code, Hull Serial Number Date of Certification, and Model Year, and where on the boat it is required to appear.
- b. Explain that the Maximum Capacities Label consists of the maximum number of persons, maximum person capacity (in pounds), maximum weight capacity (persons, motor, and gear) rating, and horsepower capacity and where it is required to appear.
- c. Explain the Compliance Plate and that it may be combined with the Capacities Label.
- d. Explain the 1978 USCG Flotation Standard required for single hull outboard and manually propelled boats less than 20 feet.
- e. Explain that a ventilation system is required for enclosed compartment with a permanent gasoline engine (cranking motor).
- f. Describe the natural and powered ventilation systems requirements.

**5. Law Enforcement.**

- a. Explain that the Coast guard and other federal, state and local law enforcement officials may board a boat anytime it is underway to conduct a safety inspection.
- b. Explain that penalties are imposed for negligent operations that endanger life and property. Give a few examples.
- c. Explain that wake damage to persons or property is a boat liability leading to possible criminal and civil action. Explain the effects of alcohol, legal and illegal drugs have to one's physical ability and judgement to operate a boat.
- d. Explain that boater fatigue resulting from fresh air, ultraviolet light, glare, motion, and noise can have the same effect as substance abuse.

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*[The environmental issue section below can be omitted provided the Good Mate Program session is conducted prior to this presentation.]*

e. Explain that federal law prohibits the throwing, discharging, or depositing of garbage, swage, oil, trash, or other pollutants into the waters of the United States.

f. Briefly explain the federal laws regarding each of the pollutants and violation can lead to civil and/or criminal penalties.

*[The accident reports section below can be omitted provided the Boat Ownership session is conducted prior to this presentation.]*

g. Distribute a copy of the CG-3865 Accident Report Form. Refer to the “U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office” Handout in the packet as a source of the form.

h. Explain that FBSA/71 sets minimum standards for reporting boat accidents, and that states can set more stringent criteria.

i. Explain that reports are filed with the state watercraft enforcement agency for the area in which the accident occurred.

6. **Vessel Safety Check Program.** Distribute the Vessel Safety Check Form.

Explain that the Vessel Safety Check verifies that a boat complies with federal equipment requirements, conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary along with the U.S. Power Squadrons. The examination is free, no report of a failure is made, and a qualified boat is awarded a safety decal.

7. **USCG Customer InfoLine.**

Explain that Infoline operators provide information on boating safety recalls , consumer complaints about possible safety defect, safety equipment requirements, boating safety classes, boat registration and respond to requests for printed safety material

8. **State and Local Government Regulations.**

Explain that State and Local governments often have additional regulations governing the operation of boats and the regulation material can be obtained from the state boating law administrator responsible for their location. Refer to the “State Boating Law Administrator” Handout in the packet.

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## U.S. COAST GUARD MINIMUM REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT HANDOUT

Equipment	Class A Less than 16 feet (4.9m)	Class 1 16 feet to less than 26 feet (4.9-7.9m)	Class 2## 26 feet to less than 40 feet (7.9-12.2m)
<b>Person flotation Devices (PFD)</b>	One Type I, II, III or V**	One Type I, II, III or V** plus one Type IV*** available to be thrown	One Type I, II, III, or V** plus one Type IV available to be thrown
<b>Fire extinguishers*</b>	At least one B-1 class approved hand-portable fire extinguisher. Not required on outboard motorboats less than 26 feet (7.9m) in length if construction will not permit the entrapment of flammable gases or vapors.		At least two B-1 class approved hand-portable fire extinguishers, or one B-II class approved hand-portable fire extinguisher.
<b>When fixed fire extinguisher system installed</b>	None	None	At least one B-1 class approved hand-portable fire extinguisher.
<b>Ventilation</b>	Boat operator is responsible for keeping the ventilation systems in operating condition, Making sure openings are free of obstructions, ducts are not blocked or torn, blowers are Operating properly and worn out components are replaced with equivalent equipment.		
<b>Whistle or other sound signaling device</b>	Boat up to 12 meters (39.4 ft.): any device capable of making an “efficient sound signal”.		
<b>Bell</b>	None required if boat equipped with device capable making an “efficient sound signal”.		
<b>Backfire flame motors, arrester****</b>	Every gasoline engine installed in a motorboat after April 25, 1940, except outboard must be equipped with an acceptable means of backfire flame control. Sailboats equipped with a motor are considered “motorboats”.		
<b>Visual distress signals*</b>	<p>All vessels used on coastal waters, the Great Lakes, territorial seas and those waters connected directly to them, up to a point where a body of water is less than two miles wide, must be equipped with visual distress signals.</p> <p>The following vessels are not required to carry day signals, but must carry night signals</p> <p>When operating from sunset to sunrise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational boats less than 16 feet (4.9m) in length.</li> <li>• Boats participating in organized events such as races, regattas or marine parades.</li> <li>• Open sailboats less than 26 feet (7.9m) in length not equipped with propulsion machinery.</li> <li>• Manually propelled boats.</li> </ul>		

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**Navigation Lights** Must comply with International or Inland Navigation Rules.

**Notes**

\*Must be USCG-approved

\*\*Type V must be worn (except within enclosed space) to qualify as required safety equipment

\*\*\*Type IV not required for canoes or kayaks greater than 16 feet (4.9m) in length

\*\*\*\*Must be USCG-approved or comply with SAE J-1928 or UL-1111 standards and be so marked.

##Class 3 vessels are not covered since Boy Scouts of America units having this class are few. Also, commercial operations and chartering are not covered.

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**STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS  
HANDOUT**

**SOUTHERN REGION, B.S.A.**

**ALABAMA**

**Area 1, 4**

Director, Marine Police Division  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
64 North Union Street, Room 756  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1451

**ARKANSAS**

**Area 2, 3**

Boating Safety Program Administrator  
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission  
#2 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

**FLORIDA**

**Area 4**

Boating Law Administrator  
Florida Marine Patrol  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

**GEORGIA**

**Area 4,5,6**

Department of Natural Resources  
Assistant Chief, Law Enforcement  
2109-A U.S. Highway 278, S. E.  
Social Circle, Georgia 30279

**KENTUCKY**

**Area 6**

Director, Kentucky Water Patrol  
Department of Natural Resources  
107 Mero Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

**LOUISIANA**

**Area 1, 2**

Boating Law Administrator  
Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
PO Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

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**MISSISSIPPI**

Boating Law Administrator  
Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks  
PO Box 451  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

**Area 1, 6**

**NORTH CAROLINA**

Executive Director  
Wildlife Resource Commission  
512 North Salisbury Street  
Archdale Building  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-1188

**Area 5, 7**

**OKLAHOMA**

Director, Lake Patrol Division  
Department of Public Safety  
PO Box 11415  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73136-0415

**Area 2, 3**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Boating Law Administrator  
Wildlife and Marine Resources Department  
PO Box 12559  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

**Area 5**

**TENNESSEE**

Boating Law Administrator  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
PO Box 40747  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204-9979

**Area 6**

**TEXAS**

Supervisor, Water Safety Law Enforcement  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, Texas 78744  
Tel. 512.389.4850  
Fax. 512.389.4740

**Area 2, 3**

**VIRGINIA**

Boating Law Administrator  
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
PO Box 11104  
Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104

**Area 7**

Southern Region, B.S.A.  
Yachting Initiative  
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**CENTRAL REGION, B.S.A.**  
**(For Councils with Counties in Central Region)**

**ILLINOIS**

Boating Law Administrator  
Division of Law Enforcement  
Department of Conservation  
524 South Second Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1787

**SR Area 6**

**INDIANA**

State Boating Law Administrator  
Department of Natural Resources  
402 W Washington Street, Room W-255D  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
Tel. 317.232.4010  
Fax. 317.232.8035

**SR Area 6**

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Chief, Law Enforcement Section  
Division of Natural Resources  
Capitol Complex Boulevard East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

**SR Area 7**

Southern Region, B.S.A.  
Yachting Initiative  
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**U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY OFFICE  
HANDOUT**

**SOUTHERN REGION, B.S.A.**

**ALABAMA**

**Area 1, 4**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
P.O. Box 2924  
Mobile, Alabama 36652-2924  
Telephone: 205.671.5199

**ARKANSAS**

**Area 2, 3**

None

**FLORIDA**

**Area 4**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
7820 Arlington Expressway, Suite 400  
Jacksonville, Florida 32211-7445  
Telephone: 904.232.2640

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
Claude Pepper Federal Building  
51 S.W. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Miami, Florida 33130-1608  
Telephone: 305.536.5691

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
155 Columbia Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33606-3598  
Telephone: 813.228.2191

**GEORGIA**

**Area 4,5,6**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
P.O. Box 8191  
Savannah, Georgia 31412-8191  
Telephone: 912.652.4371

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**KENTUCKY**

**Area 6**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
235 Tully Street  
Paducah, Kentucky 42002-7509  
Telephone: 502.442.1621

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
600 Martin Luther King Jr. Place, Room 360  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2230  
Telephone: 502.582.5194

**LOUISIANA**

**Area 1, 2**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
800 David Drive, Room 232  
Morgan City, Louisiana 70380-1304  
Telephone: 504.384.2406

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
1440 Canal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-2711  
Telephone: 504.589.6196

**MISSISSIPPI**

**Area 1, 6**

None

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Area 5, 7**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
272 N. Front Street, Suite 500  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401-3907  
Telephone: 919.343.4882

**OKLAHOMA**

**Area 2, 3**

None

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**Area 5**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
196 Tradd Street  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401-1817  
Telephone: 803.724.7683

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**TENNESSEE**

**Area 6**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
200 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 1301  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-2300  
Telephone: 901.544.3941

**TEXAS**

**Area 2, 3**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
P.O. Box 1621  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78403-1621  
Telephone: 512.888.3192

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
P.O. Box 446  
Galena Park, Texas 77547-0446  
Telephone: 713.671.5199

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
Post Office Building, Room 301  
601 Rosenberg  
Galveston, Texas 77550-1705  
Telephone: 409.766.3655

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
Federal Building  
2875 75<sup>th</sup> Street & Highway 69  
Port Arthur, Texas 77640-2099  
Telephone: 409.723.6516

**VIRGINIA**

**Area 7**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
200 Granby Mall  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510-1888  
Telephone: 804.441.3302

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Program Elements

**CENTRAL REGION, B.S.A.**  
**(For Councils with Counties in Central Region)**

**ILLINOIS**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
235 Tully Street  
Paducah, Kentucky 42002-7509  
Telephone: 502.442.1621

**SR Area 6**

**INDIANA**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
600 Martin Luther King Jr. Place, Room 360  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202-2230  
Telephone: 502.582.5194

**SR Area 6**

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Commanding Officer  
U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety Office  
1415 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2420  
Telephone: 304.529.5524

**SR Area 7**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
U.S. COAST GUARD CG-3865 (Rev. 9/95)

**BOATING ACCIDENT REPORT**

FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 2115-0010

STATE ASSIGNED CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

THE OPERATOR/OWNER OF A VESSEL USED FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES IS REQUIRED TO FILE A REPORT IN WRITING WHENEVER AN ACCIDENT RESULTS IN: LOSS OF LIFE OR DISAPPEARANCE FROM A VESSEL; AN INJURY WHICH REQUIRES MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYOND FIRST AID; OR PROPERTY DAMAGE IN EXCESS OF \$500 OR COMPLETE LOSS OF THE VESSEL. REPORTS IN DEATH AND INJURY CASES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 48 HOURS. REPORTS IN OTHER CASES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 10 DAYS. REPORTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE REPORTING AUTHORITY IN THE STATE WHERE THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED. THIS FORM IS PROVIDED TO ASSIST THE OPERATOR IN FILING THE REQUIRED WRITTEN REPORT.

COMPLETE ALL BLOCKS (INDICATE THOSE NOT APPLICABLE BY "NA")

**ACCIDENT DATA**

DATE OF ACCIDENT	TIME	AM PM	NAME OF BODY OF WATER	LOCATION (GIVE LOCATION PRECISELY)
NUMBER OF VESSELS INVOLVED	NEAREST CITY OR TOWN	COUNTY	STATE	ZIP CODE
WEATHER (CHECK ALL APPLICABLE) <input type="checkbox"/> CLEAR <input type="checkbox"/> RAIN <input type="checkbox"/> CLOUDY <input type="checkbox"/> SNOW <input type="checkbox"/> FOG <input type="checkbox"/> HAZY	WATER CONDITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> CALM (WAVES LESS THAN 6") <input type="checkbox"/> CHOPPY (WAVES 6" TO 2') <input type="checkbox"/> ROUGH (WAVES 2' TO 6") <input type="checkbox"/> VERY ROUGH (GREATER THAN 6") <input type="checkbox"/> STRONG CURRENT	TEMPERATURE (ESTIMATE) AIR _____ °F WATER _____ °F	WIND <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT (0-6 MPH) <input type="checkbox"/> MODERATE (7-14 MPH) <input type="checkbox"/> STRONG (15-25 MPH) <input type="checkbox"/> STORM (OVER 25 MPH)	VISIBILITY DAY NIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> POOR <input type="checkbox"/>
NAME OF OPERATOR		OPERATOR ADDRESS		
OPERATOR TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )	DATE OF BIRTH MO DAY YR	OPERATOR'S EXPERIENCE <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> UNDER 100 HOURS <input type="checkbox"/> ≥ 100 HOURS	INSTRUCTION IN BOATING SAFETY <input type="checkbox"/> STATE COURSE <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. POWER SQUADRON <input type="checkbox"/> USCG AUXILIARY <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN RED CROSS <input type="checkbox"/> NONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE				
NAME OF OWNER		OWNER ADDRESS		
OWNER TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )	NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON BOARD	NUMBER OF PEOPLE BEING TOWED	RENTED BOAT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

**BOAT NO. 1 (THIS VESSEL)**

BOAT REGISTRATION OR DOCUMENTATION NUMBER	STATE	HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	BOAT NAME
BOAT MANUFACTURER	LENGTH	MODEL	YEAR BUILT
TYPE OF BOAT <input type="checkbox"/> OPEN MOTORBOAT <input type="checkbox"/> CABIN MOTORBOAT <input type="checkbox"/> AUXILIARY SAIL <input type="checkbox"/> SAIL (ONLY) <input type="checkbox"/> ROWBOAT <input type="checkbox"/> CANOE/KAYAK <input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL WATERCRAFT <input type="checkbox"/> PONTOON BOAT <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSEBOAT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	HULL MATERIAL <input type="checkbox"/> WOOD <input type="checkbox"/> ALUMINUM <input type="checkbox"/> STEEL <input type="checkbox"/> FIBERGLASS <input type="checkbox"/> RUBBER/VINYL/CANVAS <input type="checkbox"/> RIGID HULL INFLATABLE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	ENGINE <input type="checkbox"/> OUTBOARD <input type="checkbox"/> INBOARD <input type="checkbox"/> INBOARD-STERNDRIVE (I/O) <input type="checkbox"/> AIRBOAT	PROPULSION <input type="checkbox"/> PROPELLER <input type="checkbox"/> WATER JET <input type="checkbox"/> AIR THRUST <input type="checkbox"/> MANUAL <input type="checkbox"/> SAIL
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDS): WAS BOAT ADEQUATELY EQUIPPED WITH COAST GUARD APPROVED PFDS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO WERE PFDS ACCESSIBLE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		FUEL <input type="checkbox"/> GASOLINE <input type="checkbox"/> DIESEL <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTRIC	NUMBER OF ENGINES TOTAL HORSEPOWER
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ON BOARD? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO USED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		WHAT CONTRIBUTED TO ACCIDENT? (CHECK ALL APPLICABLE) <input type="checkbox"/> WEATHER <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESSIVE SPEED <input type="checkbox"/> IMPROPER LOOKOUT <input type="checkbox"/> RESTRICTED VISION <input type="checkbox"/> OVERLOADING <input type="checkbox"/> IMPROPER LOADING <input type="checkbox"/> HAZARDOUS WATERS <input type="checkbox"/> ALCOHOL USE <input type="checkbox"/> DRUG USE <input type="checkbox"/> HULL FAILURE <input type="checkbox"/> MACHINERY FAILURE <input type="checkbox"/> EQUIPMENT FAILURE <input type="checkbox"/> OPERATOR INEXPERIENCE <input type="checkbox"/> OPERATOR INATTENTION <input type="checkbox"/> CONGESTED WATERS <input type="checkbox"/> PASSENGER/SKIER BEHAVIOR <input type="checkbox"/> DAM/LOCK <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT (CHECK ALL APPLICABLE) <input type="checkbox"/> CRUISING <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGING DIRECTION <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGING SPEED <input type="checkbox"/> DRIFTING <input type="checkbox"/> TOWING <input type="checkbox"/> BEING TOWED <input type="checkbox"/> ROWING/PADDLING <input type="checkbox"/> SAILING <input type="checkbox"/> LAUNCHING <input type="checkbox"/> DOCKING/UNDocking <input type="checkbox"/> AT ANCHOR <input type="checkbox"/> TIED TO DOCK/MOORED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	ACTIVITY AT TIME OF ACCIDENT (CHECK ANY IF APPLICABLE) <input type="checkbox"/> FISHING <input type="checkbox"/> TOURNAMENT <input type="checkbox"/> HUNTING <input type="checkbox"/> SWIMMING/DIVING <input type="checkbox"/> MAKING REPAIRS <input type="checkbox"/> WATERSKIING/TUBING/ETC. <input type="checkbox"/> RACING <input type="checkbox"/> WHITEWATER SPORTS <input type="checkbox"/> FUELING <input type="checkbox"/> STARTING ENGINE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-RECREATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	TYPE OF ACCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> GROUNDING <input type="checkbox"/> CAPSIZING <input type="checkbox"/> FLOODING/SWAMPING <input type="checkbox"/> SINKING <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE OR EXPLOSION (FUEL) <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE OR EXPLOSION (OTHER) <input type="checkbox"/> SKIER MISHAP <input type="checkbox"/> COLLISION WITH VESSEL <input type="checkbox"/> COLLISION WITH FIXED OBJECT <input type="checkbox"/> COLLISION WITH FLOATING OBJ. <input type="checkbox"/> FALLS OVERBOARD <input type="checkbox"/> FALLS IN BOAT <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCK BY BOAT <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCK BY MOTOR/PROPELLER <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCK SUBMERGED OBJECT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
ESTIMATED SPEED <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> UNDER 10 MPH <input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 20 MPH <input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 40 MPH <input type="checkbox"/> OVER 40 MPH	<input type="checkbox"/> HIT AND RUN		

DECEASED (IF MORE THAN 2 FATALITIES, ATTACH ADDITIONAL FORMS)			
NAME OF VICTIM		ADDRESS OF VICTIM	
DATE OF BIRTH		DEATH CAUSED BY	
<input type="checkbox"/> MALE	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/> DROWNING	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
NAME OF VICTIM		ADDRESS OF VICTIM	
DATE OF BIRTH		DEATH CAUSED BY	
<input type="checkbox"/> MALE	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/> DROWNING	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
NAME OF VICTIM		ADDRESS OF VICTIM	
DATE OF BIRTH		DEATH CAUSED BY	
<input type="checkbox"/> MALE	<input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/> DROWNING	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
INJURED (IF MORE THAN 2 INJURIES, ATTACH ADDITIONAL FORMS)			
NAME OF VICTIM		ADDRESS OF VICTIM	
DATE OF BIRTH	MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYOND FIRST AID? ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	DESCRIBE INJURY
WAS PFD WORN?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	PRIOR TO ACCIDENT?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENT?
WAS IT INFLATABLE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
NAME OF VICTIM		ADDRESS OF VICTIM	
DATE OF BIRTH	MEDICAL TREATMENT BEYOND FIRST AID? ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	DESCRIBE INJURY
WAS PFD WORN?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	PRIOR TO ACCIDENT?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENT?
WAS IT INFLATABLE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
OTHER PEOPLE ABOARD THIS BOAT (IF MORE THAN 2 PEOPLE, ATTACH ADDITIONAL FORMS)			
NAME		ADDRESS	
DATE OF BIRTH	WAS PFD WORN? AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENT?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	PRIOR TO ACCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	WAS IT INFLATABLE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
NAME		ADDRESS	
DATE OF BIRTH	WAS PFD WORN? AS A RESULT OF ACCIDENT?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	PRIOR TO ACCIDENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	WAS IT INFLATABLE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
BOAT NO. 2 (IF MORE THAN 2 VESSELS, ATTACH ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)			
NAME OF OPERATOR		OPERATOR ADDRESS	
OPERATOR TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )		BOAT REGISTRATION OR DOCUMENTATION NUMBER STATE	
NAME OF OWNER		OWNER ADDRESS	
OWNER TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )			
PROPERTY DAMAGE			
ESTIMATED AMOUNT: THIS BOAT AND CONTENTS: \$		OTHER BOAT(S) AND CONTENTS: \$	
DESCRIBE PROPERTY DAMAGED		OTHER PROPERTY: \$	
WITNESSES NOT ON THIS VESSEL			
NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )	
NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )	
PERSON COMPLETING REPORT			
NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )	
SIGNATURE	QUALIFICATION	<input type="checkbox"/> OPERATOR <input type="checkbox"/> OWNER <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATOR <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	DATE SUBMITTED
FOR AGENCY USE ONLY			
CAUSES BASED ON (CHECK ONE): <input type="checkbox"/> THIS REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATION <input type="checkbox"/> INVESTIGATION AND THIS REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
NAME OF REVIEWING OFFICE	DATE RECEIVED	RECREATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/>	NON-REPORTABLE <input type="checkbox"/>
PRIMARY CAUSE	SECONDARY CAUSE		

**ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION**

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED (SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. INCLUDE FAILURE OF EQUIPMENT. INCLUDE A DIAGRAM IF NEEDED. CONTINUE ON ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY. INCLUDE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALCOHOL AN/OR DRUGS IN CAUSING OR CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT. INCLUDE ANY DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE USE OF PFD'S.)

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to an information collection, unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The Coast Guard estimates that the average burden for this report form is 30 minutes. You may submit any comments concerning the accuracy of this burden estimate or any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Commandant (G-OPB-1), U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (2115-0010), Washington, DC 20503.



# VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

To be completed by a U. S. Coast Guard approved Vessel Examiner.  
See the back of this form for a brief explanation of required items.  
A federal Requirements Pamphlet is also available.



Owner / Operator has attended a CGAUX, USPS, State or [ ] Boating Safety Class: Yes [ ] No [ ]	<b>VSC Decal:</b> Awarded [ ] not Awarded [ ] <b>Number:</b>
Replaced decal was: Last Year [ ] Outdated [ ] First time [ ]	<b>Date of VSC:</b> [ ]
Owner/Operator Name:	Registration or Doc. No.

### VESEL INFORMATION:

Location of VSC - County:	State:	HIN:
Length <16 [ ] 16-25 [ ] 26-39 [ ] 40-65 [ ] > 65 [ ]	Area of Operations: Inland [ ] Coastal [ ]	
Powered by: Gas [ ] Diesel [ ] Sail [ ] Other [ ]	Type: PWC [ ] Open [ ] Cabin [ ] Other [ ]	

### VESEL SAFETY CHECK DECAL REQUIREMENTS

### RECOMMENDED AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item	Yes	No	NA	Item	Yes	No	NA
1. Display of Numbers				<b>(While encouraged, items below are not VSC requirements)</b>			
2. Registration / Documentation				<b>I.</b> Marine Radio			
3. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)				<b>II.</b> Dewatering Device & Backup			
4. Visual Distress Signals (VDS)				<b>III.</b> Mounted Fire Extinguishers			
5. Fire Extinguishers				<b>IV.</b> Anchor & Line for Area			
6. Ventilation				<b>V.</b> First Aid and PIW Kits (**over)			
7. Backfire Flame Control				<b>VI.</b> Inland Visual Distress Signals			
8. Sound Producing Devices / Bell				<b>VII.</b> Capacity / Cert. of Compliance			
9. Navigation Lights				<b>VIII.</b> Discussion Items: <b>as applies</b>			
10. Pollution Placard				a. Accident Reporting / Owner Responsibility			
11. MARPOL Trash Placard				b. Offshore Operations			
12. Marine Sanitation Devices				c. Nautical Charts / Navigation Aids			
13. Navigation Rules				d. Survival Tips / First Aid			
14. State and/ or Local Requirements				e. Fueling / Fuel Management			
15. Overall Vessel Condition: <b>as applies</b>				f. Float Plan / Weather & Sea Conditions			
a. Deck free of hazards / clean Bilge				g. Insurance Considerations			
b. Electrical / Fuel Systems				h. Boating Check List			
c. Galley / Heating Systems				i. Safe Boating Classes			

I certify that I have personally examined this vessel and find it meets the above requirements at the time of this Vessel Safety Check. I am a qualified Vessel Examiner of the: CGAUX [ ], USPS [ ], State of \_\_\_\_\_ [ ], or \_\_\_\_\_ [ ]

**Printed Name of the Examiner** \_\_\_\_\_ **Examiner Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Examiner Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments:** *This is not an official boarding for law enforcement purposes. It is recommended that you correct any deficiencies noted. This checklist is furnished for your information. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given or opinions expressed in connection to this examination. By accepting the Vessel Safety Check decal you are pledging to maintain your boat and equipment to the standard of safety exhibited during this examination. Please remove the Vessel Safety Check decal if the boat is sold or no longer meets these requirements.*

**SAFE BOATING.**

## Brief Explanation of VSC Required Items:

**❑ 1. NUMBERING:** The boat's registration number must be permanently attached to each side of the forward half of the boat. Characters must be plain, vertical, block style, not less than three (3) inches high, and in a color contrasting with the background. A space or hyphen must separate the letters from the numbers. Place State validation sticker according to State policy. (e.g. **FL 1234 AB** or **FL-1234-AB**)

**❑ 2. REGISTRATION / DOCUMENTATION:** Registration or Documentation papers must be on board and available. Documentation numbers must be permanently marked on a visible part of the interior structure. The documented boat's name and hailing port must be displayed on the exterior hull in letters not less than 4 inches in height.

**❑ 3. PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs):** Acceptable PFDs (also known as Life Jackets) must be U.S. Coast Guard approved and in good, serviceable condition. A wearable PFD of suitable size is required for the each person on the boat. Children must have properly fitted PFDs designed for children. Wearable PFDs shall be "readily accessible." Boats 16 Feet or longer, must also have one Type IV (throwable) device, which shall be "immediately available." PFDs shall NOT be stored in unopened plastic packaging. For Personal Watercraft riders, the PFD must be worn. An impact rating is recommended, but not required.

**❑ 4. VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS:** Recreational boats 16 feet and over used on coastal waters or the Great Lakes are required to carry a minimum of either 1) three day and three night pyrotechnic devices, 2) one day non-pyrotechnic device (flag) and one night non-pyrotechnic device (auto SOS light) or 3) a combination of 1) and 2). Recreational boats less than 16 feet on coastal waters or the Great Lakes need only carry night visual distress signals when operating from sunset to sunrise.

It is recommended, but not required, that boats operating on inland waters should have some means of making a suitable day and night distress signal. The number and type of signals is best judged by considering conditions under which the boat will be operating.

**❑ 5. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:** Fire extinguishers are required if one of the following conditions exists: 1) Inboard engine(s); 2) Double bottom hulls not completely sealed or not completely filled with flotation materials 3) Closed living space 4) Closed stowage compartments that contain flammable materials or 5) Permanently installed fuel tanks. Recreational boats less than 26 feet, and propelled by outboard motors are NOT required to have fire extinguishers unless one or more of the conditions (2-5) listed above applies. *NOTE: Fire extinguishers must be readily accessible and verified as serviceable.*

<u>Minimum number of extinguishers required</u>		
<i>Boat Length</i>	<i>No Fixed System</i>	<i>With Fixed System</i>
<b>Less than 26'</b>	<b>one B-1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>26' to less than 40'</b>	<b>two B-1 or one B-2</b>	<b>one B-1</b>
<b>40' to 65'</b>	<b>three B-1 or one B-1 &amp; one B-2</b>	<b>two B-1 or one B-2</b>

**❑ 6. VENTILATION:** Boats with gasoline engines in closed compartments, built after 1 August 1980 must have a powered ventilation system. Those built prior to that date must have natural or powered ventilation.

Boats with closed fuel tank compartments built after 1 August 1978 must meet requirements by displaying a "certificate of compliance." Boats built before that date must have either natural or powered ventilation in the fuel tank compartment.

**❑ 7. BACKFIRE FLAME ARRESTER:** All gasoline powered inboard/outboard or inboard motor boats must be equipped with an approved backfire flame control device.

**❑ 8. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES:** To comply with Navigation Rules and for distress signaling purposes all boats must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren, etc.) capable of a 4-second blast audible for 1/2 mile. Boats larger than 39.4 ft. are also required to have a bell (see Navigation Rules.)

**❑ 9. NAVIGATION LIGHTS:** All boats must be able to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility. Boats 16 feet or more in length must have properly installed, working navigation lights and an all-around anchor light capable of being lit independently from the red/green/white "running" lights.

**❑ 10. POLLUTION PLACARD:** Boats 26 feet and over with a machinery compartment must display an oily waste "pollution" placard.

**❑ 11. MARPOL TRASH PLACARD:** Boats 26 feet and over in length, operating in U.S. navigable waters, must display a "MARPOL" trash placard. Oceangoing boats 40 feet and over must also have a written trash disposal plan available onboard.

**❑ 12. MARINE SANITATION DEVICE:** Any installed toilet must be a Coast Guard approved device. Overboard discharge outlets must be capable of being sealed.

**❑ 13. NAVIGATION RULES:** Boats 39.4 feet and over must have on board a current copy of the Navigation Rules.

**❑ 14. STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS:** These requirements must be met before the "Vessel Safety Check" decal can be awarded. A boat must meet the requirements of the state in which it is being examined.

**❑ 15. OVERALL BOAT CONDITION:** As it applies to this Vessel. Including, but not limited to:

**a. Deck free of hazards and clean bilge -** The boat must be free from fire hazards, in good overall condition, with bilges reasonably clean and visible hull structure generally sound. The use of automobile parts on boat engines is not acceptable. The engine horsepower must not exceed that shown on the capacity plate.

**b. Electrical and Fuel Systems:** The **electrical system** must be protected by fuses or manual reset circuit breakers. Switches and fuse panels must be protected from rain or water spray. Wiring must be in good condition, properly installed and with no exposed areas or deteriorated insulation. Batteries must be secured and terminals covered to prevent accidental arcing. **If installed**, self-circling or kill switch mechanism must be in proper working order. All **PWCs** **require** an operating self circling or kill switch mechanism.

**Fuel Systems - Portable fuel tanks** (normally 7 gallon capacity or less) must be constructed of non-breakable material and free of corrosion and leaks. All vents must be capable of being closed. The tank must be secured and have a vapor-tight, leak-proof cap. Each **permanent fuel tank** must be properly ventilated.

**c. Galley and Heating Systems -** System and fuel tanks must be properly secured with no flammable materials nearby.

**I. - VIII. RECOMMENDED AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:** (Not required for the award of the "Vessel Safety Check" decal.) For the very best boaters, we recommend these additional items. Meeting these requirements reflects your concern for Boating Safety.

**\*\* Person in the Water (PIW) kit consists of one extra wearable PFD and a throwable type IV PFD w/line.**

For more information: Ask your Vessel Examiner,  
Visit <http://SafetySeal.net> or  
Call the Boating Safety Hotline – 800-368-5647

