

For more information on compliance plates or labels visit www.boatingsafety.gc.ca.

Hull identification number (HIN)

Pleasure craft made in Canada, or imported to Canada, after August 1, 1981, must have a HIN marking. The HIN must be on the outside of the transom on the starboard side, or as close to that area as possible if marking on the transom is not practical.

If you can no longer obtain a HIN from the manufacturer, or if the vessel is home-built, request an application package from a Transport Canada Centre to obtain one.



Overloading your boat

Overloading your boat with people or equipment is incredibly dangerous and can have fatal consequences. The number of people who can be carried safely depends on the type of vessel and the distribution of weight. Poor distribution of weight on board will affect your boat's stability for the worse.

As the operator of your vessel, you must follow the limits on the capacity plate as the recommended gross load capacity or the equivalent number of adult persons. When following these limits, keep in mind the maximum load is calculated for fair weather conditions and evenly distributed weight. Keep the load as low as possible on board and secure equipment to prevent it from shifting and affecting the stability of your pleasure craft.

Minimum required equipment

Safe and responsible operation of your pleasure craft is a key ingredient for a good time. The right equipment provides peace of mind and if something goes wrong, it may save your life.

The Small Vessel Regulations identify the minimum equipment required on board your pleasure craft according to vessel length. In some examples over the next few pages, in addition to vessel length, the minimum equipment displayed is by vessel type to assist you.

You may want to bring along additional items depending on your type of vessel, activity and environment. Go prepared. Make sure equipment is easily accessible and can be properly used by everyone on board.

Ensuring that all equipment, whether it is lifesaving or navigation equipment, is in good working order is not just common sense — it is the law.

To determine the length of your pleasure craft, refer to its manufacturer's product information or measure it yourself (from the forward end of the foremost outside surface of the hull shell to the aftermost outside surface of the hull shell).

Minimum equipment requirements do not apply to beach and pool toys measuring less than 2 m (6'7") in length that are not designed to be fitted with a motor. Remember, operating a propeller-driven surfboard is against the law in Canada.

If you are renting a vessel and will be operating it for recreational purposes, these carriage requirements apply to you.

If you are using your boat as a non-pleasure craft or are carrying passengers for remuneration, this is considered commercial vessel operation and you should visit www.tc.gc.ca/smallvessels and contact a Transport Canada Centre for applicable regulations.



Sailboards

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

Boat safety equipment

3. One (1) manual propelling device

Distress equipment

4. A watertight flashlight

OR

Three (3) Canadian-approved flares of Type A, B or C

The equipment listed in 2, 3, and 4 is not mandatory if all people on a sailboard are wearing a Canadian-approved flotation device of the appropriate size or engaged in an official competition.

Navigation equipment

5. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions (see page 49).

Pleasure craft propelled by oars and pleasure craft 8 m (26'3") or less in length within sight of navigational marks do not require a compass.



Paddleboats and watercycles less than 6 m (19'8") in length

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

Distress equipment

3. A watertight flashlight
- OR

Three (3) Canadian-approved flares of Type A, B or C

The equipment listed in 2 and 3 is not mandatory if all people on board are wearing a Canadian-approved flotation device of the appropriate size.

Navigation equipment

4. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance
5. Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations if the pleasure craft is operated after sunset and before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions (see page 49).

Pleasure craft propelled by oars and pleasure craft 8 m (26'3") or less in length within sight of navigational marks do not require a compass.



Canoes, kayaks, rowboats and rowing shells less than 6 m (19'8") in length

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

Boat safety equipment

3. One (1) manual propelling device (for more detailed description, refer to the manual propelling device definition)
OR
An anchor with no less than 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination
4. One (1) bailer
OR

One (1) manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a person using the pump to discharge water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel

Navigation equipment

5. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance
6. Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations if the pleasure craft is operated after sunset and before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions (see page 49).

Pleasure craft propelled by oars and pleasure craft 8 m (26'3") or less in length within sight of navigational marks do not require a compass.



Unpowered pleasure craft less than 6 m (19'8") in length

See separate sections for sailboards; paddleboats and watercycles; canoes, kayaks, rowboats and rowing shells.

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

Boat safety equipment

3. One (1) manual propelling device (for more detailed description, refer to the manual propelling device definition)

OR

An anchor with no less than 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination

4. One (1) Class 5BC fire extinguisher, if the pleasure craft is equipped with a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance

5. One (1) bailer
OR

One (1) manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a person using the pump to discharge water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel

Navigation equipment

6. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance
7. Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations if the pleasure craft is operated after sunset and before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility

A bailer or manual water pump is not required for any self-bailing sealed hull sailing vessel fitted with a recess-type cockpit that cannot contain a sufficient quantity of water to make the vessel capsize, or a multi-hull vessel that has subdivided multiple-sealed hull construction.

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions, (see page 49).

Pleasure craft propelled by oars and pleasure craft 8 m (26'3") or less in length within sight of navigational marks do not require a compass.



Personal watercraft (PWC)

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

Distress equipment

3. A watertight flashlight
OR
Three (3) Canadian-approved flares of Type A, B or C

Navigation equipment

4. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance

Boat safety equipment

5. One (1) manual propelling device (for more detailed description, refer to the manual propelling device definition)
OR
An anchor with no less than 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination
6. One (1) bailer
OR

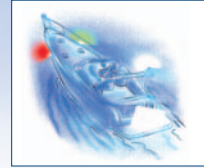
One (1) manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a person using the pump to discharge water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel

7. One (1) Class 5BC fire extinguisher

The equipment listed in 5, 6 and 7 is not mandatory if all people on the PWC are wearing a Canadian-approved flotation device of the appropriate size.

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions (see page 49).

Pleasure craft propelled by oars and pleasure craft 8 m (26'3") or less in length within sight of navigational marks do not require a compass.



Powered pleasure craft less than 6 m (19'8") in length

See separate section for personal watercraft.

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

Boat safety equipment

3. One (1) manual propelling device (for more detailed description, refer to the manual propelling device definition)

OR

An anchor with no less than 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination

4. One (1) Class 5BC fire extinguisher, if the pleasure craft is equipped with an inboard engine, a fixed fuel tank of any size, or a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance
5. One (1) bailer

OR

One (1) manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a

person using the pump to discharge water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel

Distress equipment

6. A watertight flashlight

OR

Three (3) Canadian-approved flares of Type A, B or C

Navigation equipment

7. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance
8. Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations if the pleasure craft is operated after sunset and before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility

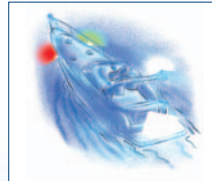
A bailer or manual water pump is not required for any multi-hull vessel that has subdivided multiple-sealed hull construction.

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions (see page 49).

Pleasure craft propelled by oars and pleasure craft 8 m (26'3") or less in length within sight of navigational marks do not require a compass or a compass bearing device.



Sailing vessel less than 7 m (23') long when underway



Pleasure craft greater than 6 m (19'8") in length but no greater than 8 m (26'3") in length

Including unpowered craft

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions, (see page 49).

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

OR

One (1) approved lifebuoy with an outside diameter of 610 mm or 762 mm that is attached to a buoyant line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length

3. A reboarding device if the freeboard of the vessel is greater than 0.5 m (1'8")



Boat safety equipment

4. One (1) manual propelling device (for more detailed description, refer to the manual propelling device definition)

OR

An anchor with no less than 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination

5. One (1) bailer

OR

One (1) manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a person using the pump to discharge water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel

6. One (1) Class 5BC fire extinguisher, if the pleasure craft is a power-driven vessel, plus another class 5BC fire extinguisher if the pleasure craft is equipped with a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance

Distress equipment

7. A watertight flashlight

8. Six (6)* Canadian-approved flares of Type A, B or C

* Exempt from carrying pyrotechnic distress signals if:

- Operating in a river, canal or lake in which it can at no time be more than one nautical mile (1.852 km) from shore

OR

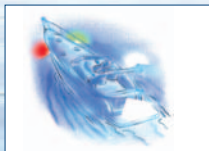
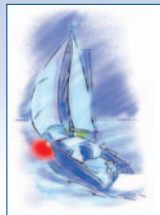
- Engaged in an official competition or in final preparation for an official competition and has no sleeping arrangements

Navigation equipment

9. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance

10. Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations if the pleasure craft is operated after sunset and before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility

Pleasure craft propelled by oars and pleasure craft 8 m (26'3") or less within sight of navigational marks do not require a compass or a compass bearing device.



Pleasure craft greater than 8 m (26'3") in length but no greater than 12 m (39'4") in length

Including powered craft

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length
3. One (1) approved lifebuoy with an outside diameter of 610 mm or 762 mm that is attached to a buoyant line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length
4. A reboarding device if the freeboard of the vessel is greater than 0.5 m (1'8")

Boat safety equipment

5. An anchor with no less than 30 m (98'5") of cable, rope or chain in any combination
6. One (1) bailer
7. One (1) manual water pump fitted with or accompanied by sufficient hose to enable a person using the pump to discharge water from the bilge of the vessel over the side of the vessel
8. One (1) Class 10BC fire extinguisher, if the pleasure craft is a power-driven vessel, plus another class 10BC fire extinguisher if the pleasure craft is equipped with a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance

Distress equipment

9. A watertight flashlight
10. 12* Canadian-approved flares of Type A, B, C or D, no more than six (6) of which are of Type D

* Exempt from carrying pyrotechnic distress signals if:

- Operating in a river, canal or lake in which it can at no time be more than one nautical mile (1.852 km) from shore

OR

- Engaged in an official competition or in final preparation for an official competition and has no sleeping arrangements

Navigation equipment

11. A sound-signalling device or a sound-signalling appliance
12. Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions (see page 49).

Power-driven pleasure craft greater than 8 m (26'3") in length require a properly adjusted compass. If the voyage is more than 20 nautical miles (37 km) from shore a compass bearing device is required.



Pleasure craft greater than 12 m (39'4") in length but no greater than 20 m (65'7") in length

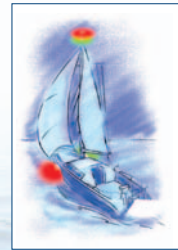
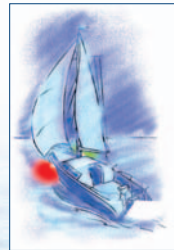
Including unpowered craft

Personal protection equipment

1. One (1) Canadian-approved personal flotation device or lifejacket of appropriate size for each person on board
2. One (1) buoyant heaving line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length
3. One (1) approved lifebuoy with an outside diameter of 610 mm or 762 mm that is equipped with a self-igniting light and is attached to a buoyant line no less than 15 m (49'3") in length
4. A reboarding device

Boat safety equipment

5. An anchor with no less than 50 m (164'1") of cable, rope or chain in any combination
6. Bilge pumping arrangements
7. One (1) Class 10BC fire extinguisher at each of the following locations:
 - At each access to any space where a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance is fitted
 - At the entrance to any accommodation space



- At the entrance to the engine room space
8. One (1) axe
 9. Two (2) buckets, each with a capacity of 10 L or more

Distress equipment

10. A watertight flashlight
11. 12 Canadian-approved flares of Type A, B, C or D, no more than six (6) of which are of Type D

Navigation equipment

12. A sound-signalling appliance
13. Navigation lights that meet the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations

Note: Radar reflectors are required under certain conditions (see page 49).

Power-driven pleasure craft greater than 8 m (26'3") in length require a properly adjusted compass. If the voyage is more than 20 nautical miles (37 km) from shore a compass bearing device is required.

Specific requirements for pleasure craft involved in competition

Pleasure craft used for racing, and its crew, may carry alternative safety equipment when engaged in formal training, in an official competition or in final preparation for an official competition. Read on to see if your event or training sessions qualify for this exemption.

- Official competition: a competition or regatta organized by a governing body, a club or an organization that is affiliated with a governing body.
- Formal training: practice for an official competition under the supervision of a coach or official certified by a governing body.
- Final preparation for an official competition: activities to prepare for the competition that take place at the competition venue and during the times specified by the organizer of the competition.
- Governing body: a watersport governing body that publishes rules and criteria respecting conduct and safety requirements during skill demonstrations, formal training or official competitions and that:
 - certifies coaches and coaching programs
 - certifies officials and programs for officials; or
 - recommends training and safety

guidelines for certified coaches or officials.

- Safety craft: a boat, aircraft or other means of transport with a crew on board that is used for surveillance and lifeguarding activities during formal training or official competitions.

Alternative equipment for racing canoes, racing kayaks and rowing shells

Racing canoes and racing kayaks do not have to carry the equipment referred to in any part of this guide if their crews are engaged in formal training, in an official competition or in final preparation for an official competition, and:

- are attended by a safety vessel carrying a flotation device of the appropriate size for each crew member of the largest vessel being attended (in addition to their own safety equipment); or,
- carry:
 - a flotation device of the appropriate size for each crewmember;
 - a sound-signalling device; and,
 - if operated after sunset and before sunrise, a watertight flashlight.

Rowing shells do not have to carry the equipment referred to in any part of this guide if:

- competing in a provincially, nationally or internationally sanctioned regatta or competition or engaged in training at the venue