

Marine Information Bulletin

Boating safety improvements

Background

New legislation has been introduced to improve boating safety. The changes are intended to reduce marine incidents and increase the likelihood of surviving a marine incident.

The new requirements will apply mainly to recreational boating and personal watercraft operators. However, some requirements will also apply to commercial and fishing boat operators.

New legislative requirements

Changes include:

- A higher standard of boat operator skills will be required for new licence holders of large recreational boats.
- Better training will be introduced for recreational licences.
- Extending the list of coastal bars requiring everyone onboard to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) when in an open boat under 4.8 metres in length.
- Additional operating requirements for personal watercraft (PWC) to minimise the likelihood of collisions.
- Additional safety equipment requirements for PWCs operating offshore in line with other recreational boats.

The new requirements also include several miscellaneous matters:

- The owner of a recreational boat to ensure a master is appropriately licensed.
- Recognition of particular types of overseas boating licences.
- Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon's (EPIRB) registration sticker to be fixed to the beacon.
- Interstate registered recreational boats on an interstate voyage do not require Queensland registration when in Queensland waters.
- New stowage requirements for safety equipment to enable immediate access in the event of an emergency.
- The new Australian Standard 4758 for PFDs as an appropriate standard for use.

Key dates

- New changes:
From 1 January 2012 all legislative requirements will apply, other than the new boat licensing requirements.
- New boat licensing requirements:
From 1 January 2013, the new recreational boat licensing changes requiring a higher standard of boat operator skills for new licence holders of large recreational boats are proposed to apply. Further details will be provided closer to this date.

Availability

For more information, please visit the Maritime Safety Queensland website at www.msq.qld.gov.au under headlines to access the frequently asked questions, a factsheet and other related documents.

Information

For further information about this Marine Information Bulletin, email msqmail@msq.qld.gov.au.

Other Marine Information Bulletins covering various topics relating to the safe operation of vessels can be obtained from Maritime Safety Queensland's website www.msq.qld.gov.au and from the following Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices:

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Bundaberg	(07) 4131 8500
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