



# Minimum Safety Equipment Requirements Personal Watercraft (PWC)

*\*If every person on board a personal watercraft is wearing a lifejacket or a PFD of an appropriate size, you are only required to carry:*

1. a sound-signalling device;
2. a watertight flashlight or three pyrotechnic distress signals other than smoke signals;
3. a magnetic compass if the personal watercraft is navigated out of sight of navigation marks; and
4. navigation lights if the personal watercraft is used after sunset or before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility.

*NOTE: Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant.*

## PERSONAL LIFESAVING APPLIANCES:

1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board\*
2. One (1) reboarding device (See Note 1)
3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49' 3") long

## VISUAL SIGNALS:

4. One (1) watertight flashlight **OR** Three (3) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than one (1) of which is Type D (See Note 2)

## VESSEL SAFETY EQUIPMENT:

5. One (1) manual propelling device **OR** One (1) anchor and at least 15 m (49' 3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination

6. One (1) bailer or manual bilge pump (See Note 3)

## NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT:

7. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance
8. Navigation lights (See Note 4)
9. One (1) magnetic compass (See Note 5)
10. One (1) radar reflector (See Note 6)

## FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT:

11. One (1) 5BC fire extinguisher

### **Note 1 – Reboarding Device**

A reboarding device is only required if the vertical height that a person must climb to reboard the boat from the water (freeboard) is over 0.5 m (1' 8").

### **Note 2 – Flares**

Flares are not required for a boat that:

- is operating on a river, canal or lake in which it can never be more than one (1) nautical mile (1.852 km) from shore; or
- has no sleeping quarters and is engaged in an official competition or in final preparation for an official competition.

For a pleasure craft more than 6 m in length, the number of

pyrotechnic distress signals are reduced, if the boat is equipped with an electronic communication device, including:

- a means of two-way radio communication (e.g. cell phones, satellite phones or other satellite communication devices, VHF radios with digital select calling);
- a 406 MHz personal locator beacon, which is a personal safety device designed to alert search and rescue services and allow them to quickly locate a person in the event of an emergency; or
- a 406 MHz emergency position-indicating radio beacon, which is used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency via a satellite.

### **Note 3 – Bailer and Manual Bilge Pump**

A bailer or manual bilge pump is not required for a boat that cannot hold enough water to make it capsize or a boat that has watertight compartments that are sealed and not readily accessible.

### **Note 4 – Navigation Lights**

Navigation lights are only required if you operate the boat after sunset, before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility (fog, falling snow, etc.).

### **Note 5 – Magnetic Compass**

A magnetic compass is not required if the boat is 8 m (26' 3") or less and you operate it within sight of navigation marks.

### **Note 6 – Radar Reflector**

Radar reflectors are required for boats under 20 m (65' 7") and boats built of mostly non-metallic materials. A radar reflector is not required if:

- the boat is used in limited traffic conditions, daylight and favourable environmental conditions, and where having a radar reflector is not essential to the boat's safety; or
- the small size of the boat or its operation away from radar navigation makes it impossible to install or use a radar reflector.