

USCG Minimum Equipment Requirements for Recreational Vessels

Boat Length in Feet	Less than 16', canoes, kayaks	16' to 26'	26' to 39'4" (12m)	40' to 65'	65' to 165' (50m)												
 Personal Floatation Devices	One Type I, II, III or V per person (see table with New Icons). PFD's must be CG Approved, wearable the intended user and readily accessible	One Type I, II, III or V per person (see table with New Icons) plus one Type IV throwable device. PFD's must be CG Approved, wearable the intended user and readily accessible. The Type IV throwable device must be located such that it is immediately available.		<table><tr><th>Old Type</th><th colspan="2">New Icon</th></tr><tr><td>Type I</td><td></td><td> or and </td></tr><tr><td>Type II</td><td></td><td> and </td></tr><tr><td>Type III</td><td></td><td> and </td></tr></table>	Old Type	New Icon		Type I		or and	Type II		and	Type III		and	
Old Type	New Icon																
Type I		or and															
Type II		and															
Type III		and															
 Fire Extinguishers No Fixed System	One 5-B (formerly B-1) any type. Fire extinguishers required on any boat with enclosed fuel or engine spaces, enclosed living spaces, or permanent (not movable by one person) fuel tanks.		One 20-B (formerly B-II) or two 5-B (formerly B-1)	One 20-B (formerly B-II) AND one 5-B (formerly B-1) OR three 5-B (formerly B-1)	One to eight 20-B (formerly B-II) (Depends on weight) Plus additional requirements in machinery space - for detail specifics see 44CFR25-30.20												
 With fixed System	No portables required		One 5-B (formerly B-1)	Two 5-B (formerly B-1) or one 20-B (formerly B-II)													
 Visual Distress Signals on Coastal Waters	Night signals required when operating between sunset and sunrise.	Minimum of three (3) day-use and three (3) night-use or three (3) day/night combination pyrotechnical devices. Non-pyrotechnic substitutes: 1 orange flag (day-use) and 1 electric S-O-S signal light (night-use).															
 Sound Producing Devices	Horn or whistle recommended to signal intentions or position. Under Rule 33 of the Navigation Rules, boats under 20M MUST have aboard a means of making an efficient sound.			Bell no longer required by Federal Regulations	One bell not less than 300mm for boats larger than 20m and one whistle or horn required to signal intentions or position.												
 Backfire Flame Arrestor	One CG-Approved device on each carburetor for all gasoline-powered engines built after April 1940, except outboards. Arrestor should be kept clean to prevent contamination from propagating a flame.																
 Ventilation	CG-standard powered system required on gasoline-powered vessels with enclosed engine spaces built after August 1, 1980. Boats built earlier must have either natural or powered ventilation in the fuel tank component.																
 Navigation Lights	Under power	Sidelights, stern light, masthead light. Boats 16' or longer must also have a 360 degree all-around white anchor light capable of being lit independently from the red/green/white running lights. Sailboats under power are considered powerboats and must follow "under power" rules.															
	Under sail	Sidelights and stern light. Boats under sail under 20m (65.6 feet) can substitute a tri-color light for separate sidelights and stern lights. Sailboats under power are considered powerboats and must follow "under power" rules.															
	Rowing	Sailboats and powerboats under 7m and under 7 knots can substitute a white lantern in place of the required lights.															
	At Anchor	All around white light visible for 2nm at night unless in a chart-designated anchorage.															
	Visibility Range	1 nm side lights, 2 nm all others		3 nm masthead, 2 nm all others		5 nm masthead, 2nm all others											
 Pollution Regulations	"Honor System", no plaques required		5" x 8" Oil Discharge placard and 4" x 9" MARPOL Trash placards. Vessels over 39'4" with a galley must have a Waste Management Plan.														
 Marine Sanitation Devices	Vessels with installed head facilities must have an operable CG-Certified Type I, II or III Marine Sanitation Device (MSD). Any "Y" valve for discharge overboard must be located in such a manner or affixed to prevent accidental discharge of untreated waste into the water.				Type II or III MSD only.												
 Navigation Rules	Familiarity with the rules is recommended but not required. Boaters should be familiar with the "Rules of the Road" for crossing and overtaking situations, as well as meeting other vessels head on.			Vessels 12m (39.4") or over are required to have a current copy of the USDOT USCG International - Inland Navigation Rules aboard.													