

# *Title:* Basic State- or Territory-Specific Boating Knowledge and Continuing Education

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*Scope:* This is the minimum required standard of knowledge to boating laws and safety information that is specific to a particular state or territory.

*Purpose:* To establish a state or territory's standard for use by course providers to meet the content requirements specific to a particular state or territory.

## **8.0 Basic State- or Territory-Specific Boating Knowledge and Continuing Education**

### **8.1. Continuing Education**

**8.1.1.** The course will outline the need for additional boating safety education and staying informed of changes in boating safety requirements.

### **8.2. State- or Territory- Specific Boating Information**

The course will contain (as part of the text or a separate handout) state- or territory- specific information in regard to boating laws/regulations and local boating conditions. The course will include the following topics as applicable:

#### **8.2.1. Boat Registration and Titling Requirements**

8.2.1.1. The course will describe:

8.2.1.1.1. that all motorized boats and many other boats are required to be registered according to state or territory requirements that describe:

8.2.1.1.1.1. number of years registration decals are valid

8.2.1.1.1.2. expiration date of registration, and

8.2.1.1.1.3. decal placement.

8.2.1.1.2. requirements for hull identification number,

8.2.1.1.3. the required certificate of number (registration documentation), and external display of numbers,

8.2.1.1.4. the requirements for federally documented vessels,

8.2.1.1.5. reciprocity regulations, and

8.2.1.1.6. registration requirements in the boat's state or territory of principal use.

## **8.2.2. Boating Equipment**

8.2.2.1. The course will describe laws for required wearing of PFDs/life jackets for :

8.2.2.1.1. children,

8.2.2.1.2. certain types of boats, and

8.2.2.1.3. special boating activities such as personal watercraft, skiers and others being towed.

8.2.2.2. The course will describe additional equipment requirements such as:

8.2.2.2.1. anchor,

8.2.2.2.2. lanyard,

8.2.2.2.3. bailing devices, and

8.2.2.2.4. visual distress signals.

## **8.2.3. Marine Environment and Noise**

8.2.3.1. The course will describe the environmental laws and regulations concerning:

8.2.3.1.1. littering (e.g., garbage and plastic),

8.2.3.1.2. waste discharge,

8.2.3.1.3. no discharge zones,

8.2.3.1.4. waste management plans,

8.2.3.1.5. display of information placards (where applicable), and

8.2.3.1.6. aquatic nuisance species.

8.2.3.2. The course will describe:

8.2.3.2.1. the proper procedure for disposal of human waste from recreational boats and

8.2.3.2.2. how to identify no discharge zones and pumpout station locations.

8.2.3.3. The course will describe:

8.2.3.3.1. procedures for the prevention of spills and improper disposal of toxic substances such as fuels, oils, and cleaning products into the marine environment and

8.2.3.3.2. the associated fines for non-compliance.

8.2.3.4. The course will describe laws on mufflers and noise levels.

## **8.2.4. Age and Education Requirements**

8.2.4.1. The course will describe special requirements for:

8.2.4.1.1. mandatory education,

- 8.2.4.1.2. licensing,
- 8.2.4.1.3. rental operation, and
- 8.2.4.1.4. proficiency test certifications.

8.2.4.2. The course will describe requirements for children such as:

- 8.2.4.2.1. age and horsepower restrictions and
- 8.2.4.2.2. adult supervision requirements.

#### **8.2.5. Safe Boat Operation**

8.2.5.1. The course will describe laws further defining careless, reckless, unsafe, and negligent operations such as:

- 8.2.5.1.1. becoming airborne and
- 8.2.5.1.2. operating less than specified distances behind a water skier.

8.2.5.2. The course will describe boat speed limits and operation in zoned and restricted areas.

8.2.5.3. The course will describe laws on operating under the influence of drugs and alcohol such as:

- 8.2.5.3.1. implied consent and
- 8.2.5.3.2. BAC levels.

#### **8.2.6. Law Enforcement and Accident Reporting**

8.2.6.1. The course will describe law enforcement officer authority and boater responsibility to comply.

8.2.6.2. The course will describe boat accident reporting requirements including:

8.2.6.2.1. how, when, and where to file the report.

(Note: Accident reports are legally required when the accident involves: 1) disappearance or loss of life; or 2) personal injury requiring medical treatment beyond first aid; or 3) property damage in excess of current state or federal thresholds; or 4) complete loss of the boat.)

8.2.6.3. The course will describe a state approved boating accident report form or U.S. Coast Guard form.

#### **8.2.7. Other State- or Territory- Laws and Safety Information**

8.2.7.1. The course will describe other laws or regulations as required by the state or territory approving authority.

## *Rationale*

It is important for boat operators to understand that one of their responsibilities is to keep up-to-date with new developments in boating laws and safety information. State and territory laws vary with regard to licensing, equipment requirements, accident reporting procedures, etc. Thus, boaters must be aware of the rules in the states/territories in which they are operating in addition to those in their home state. The boating equipment and safety information available to boat operators is constantly changing and improving. Boat operators who stay abreast of these changes will be ready for new situations, thus improving their own boating enjoyment as well as the safety of all boating participants. Skills based and/or advanced courses involving navigation, piloting, etc., are also available.

See <http://nasbla.org/files/public/Educ/Approval/Application/2009%20Flow%20Chart.pdf> for a description of the process for review of Standard 8 and its relation to NASBLA approval.