

Boating safety improvements

The Department of Transport and Main Roads through Maritime Safety Queensland will introduce changes to improve boating safety from January 2012.

Safety equipment and operational changes

Designated coastal bars

Extending the list of designated coastal bars requiring everyone onboard to wear a personal flotation device when in an open boat under 4.8 metres in length. This applies to recreational boats and commercial and fishing ships.

Current designated coastal bars		Additional designated coastal bars
Currumbin Bar	Caloundra Bar	Mooloolah River mouth
Tallebudgera Bar	Maroochy Bar	Gold Coast Seaway
Jumpinpin Bar	Noosa Bar	Round Hill Creek
South Passage Bar	Wide Bay Bar	

Personal watercraft operations

To improve marine safety and reduce injuries from collisions involving personal watercraft (for example a jet ski) the following changes will be made:

- Personal watercraft driver to maintain a distance of 30 metres from other moving boats when travelling at more than 10 knots, unless the personal watercraft is involved in an approved aquatic event.
- Personal watercraft licence holder is to wear the 'kill switch' safety lanyard when the personal watercraft is being driven by a learner driver.
- A learner personal watercraft driver can not carry passengers other than the supervising personal watercraft licence holder.

Personal watercraft safety equipment

The following additional safety equipment requirements for personal watercraft, similar to that required for other recreational boats, are to be introduced.

Equipment	Smooth waters	Partially smooth waters	Beyond partially smooth waters
Must carry under <i>Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004</i>			
Personal flotation device	* PFD type 2 or 3 or level 50 or level 50 special purpose	* PFD type 2 or level 50	* PFD type 2 or level 50
Signalling device if operating at night (for example torch, lantern)	*	*	*
Capacity label	*	*	*
Ride Smart sticker	*	*	*
V sheet		✓	✓
Flares (two red hand-held and two orange smoke)		✓	✓
EPIRB (406 MHz) when operating more than 2 nm from land			*
Should carry under <i>Transport Operations (Marine Safety – Recreational Ships Miscellaneous Equipment) Standard 2006</i>			
Anchor		✓ With cable appropriate to area of operation	✓ With cable appropriate to area of operation
Drinking water		✓	✓
Chart		✓	✓
Compass		✓	✓
Handheld electronic navigation device (if not equipped with chart or compass)		✓	✓

* Indicates the equipment already required to be carried on a personal watercraft.

✓ Indicates the additional equipment required to be carried on a personal watercraft.

Note

- Personal flotation devices must meet the following Australian Standards:
 - PFD type 2 – AS1499
 - PFD type 3 – AS2260
 - Level 50 – AS4758
 - Level 50 special purpose – AS4758.

Other changes include:

- Enhanced night and electronic navigation training will be introduced to the existing BoatSafe course.
- The owner of a recreational boat must verify that a person who is to be the master of the boat holds an appropriate licence to operate that boat.
- Recognition of particular types of international boating licences (a list to be published on the Maritime Safety Queensland website www.msq.qld.gov.au).
- The Australian Maritime Safety Authority registration sticker for an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) must be affixed to the EPIRB.
- A recreational boat registered in another state or territory that is on an interstate voyage does not require Queensland registration while in Queensland waters.
- New stowage requirements for safety equipment to enable immediate access in the event of an emergency.

New open recreational marine driver licence for boats of any length

From January 2013, if you are a new boat licence applicant wanting to operate recreational boats of any length (that is not limited to recreational boats under 12 metres), you will need to meet the following requirements:

- Holding a limited recreational marine driver licence (limited to less than 12 metres) or equivalent from another Australian state or territory for at least one year.
- Minimum age of 18 years.
- The completion under the supervision of an open recreational marine licence holder or equivalent of a range of boating tasks required in an advanced BoatSafe workbook.
- The completion of an advanced BoatSafe training course focussing on specific knowledge required to operate larger recreational boats.

Holders of a recreational marine driver licence issued prior to 1 January 2013 and those with a master's certificate for a commercial or fishing ship will continue to be able to operate recreational vessels of any size without further requirements.

For more information

For more information, visit the Maritime Safety Queensland website at www.msq.qld.gov.au or contact your nearest regional office.

Airlie Beach	4946 2200
Bundaberg	4131 8500
Cairns	4052 7400
Gladstone	4973 1200
Hervey Bay	4194 9600
Mackay	4944 3700
Mooloolaba	5477 8425
Pinkenba	3860 3500
Southport	5539 7300
Townsville	4726 3400