

Safety Guidelines Rules at a Glance Marine Safety



Safety equipment

Vessels are required to carry certain items of safety equipment. The quantity and type of equipment varies depending on the type of vessel you're operating and how far offshore you travel, and it is important to understand that these are minimum requirements.

Keep it maintained

All safety equipment must be maintained in very good condition and be accessible at all times.

To maximise your chances of survival on the water, you and your passengers need to know:

- where it is stowed;
- how to use it; and
- when to use it.

It's recommended lifejackets are worn at all times when boating. For more information about safety equipment visit www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine or call 13 11 56.

Aids to navigation

It is illegal to interfere with, remove or damage any beacon, buoy or other aids to navigation or to secure any vessel to any beacon, buoy, seamark or other aid to navigation, without permission in writing from Department of Transport (DoT).

Obstruction of navigation channels

Cray pots, lines and floats, drop nets, fishing nets, marker buoys or other buoyed objects cannot be placed or allowed to remain in any channel or fairway in any port or harbour, or in any channel, fairway or passage in any navigable waters without the permission of DoT.

Also, you can't anchor or moor a vessel in any channel or fairway, unless the vessel is in distress.

Diving

Any boat with divers (not snorkellers) operating from it must always display signals by day or night to alert other boat users. The daytime signal for divers is an International Code Flag "A". The flag must be at least 750 millimetres long and 600 millimetres wide.

Divers operating without a vessel, for example from a jetty, must also display the International Code Flag "A".

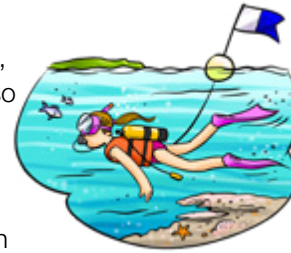
The flag can be displayed from a buoy and must not be less than 300 millimetres in length and 200 millimetres in width.

The flag must be clearly visible to all vessels operating in the vicinity.

Vessels to keep clear

When approaching a place or another vessel displaying the International Code Flag "A" or the appropriate signal during the hours of darkness, you must —

- keep your vessel at least 50 metres clear of that place or vessel; or
- where it is not possible to keep 50 metres clear of that place or vessel —
 - proceed at the slowest speed at which the vessel can be safely navigated; and
 - maintain a proper lookout for people in the water.



Personal water craft (PWC)

Every skipper of a PWC must hold a Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST). A skipper who is older than 14 but under 16 years of age with an RST may only operate a PWC during daylight hours and at a maximum speed of 8 knots.



Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket level 50s minimum at all times.

Additionally:

- When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters a GPS enabled Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB must be worn), flares or Electronic Visual Distress Signal (EVDS in lieu of flares) are required.
- Beyond 4 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters a VHF marine radio must also be carried.

Freestyling and wake jumping is prohibited:

- within any speed restricted area;
- within 30 metres of another PWC;
- within 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water.

General speed limit restrictions

It is illegal, in any navigable waters to drive a motor boat at a speed exceeding 8 knots, water ski or para-sail:

- through an arch of a bridge;
- in or through a mooring area;
- in any waterway having a depth of less than 3 metres;
- within 15 metres of a vessel underway;
- within 50 metres of -
 - a moored vessel;
 - a person in the water;
 - a jetty or wharf;
 - a river bank or low water mark.

Nuisance

You must not travel at such a speed or in a manner that causes a nuisance or damage to fellow water users or other vessels (moored or not) or causes damage or erosion to banks or property.

Kiteboarding and windsurfing

In certain conditions these small, fast moving sailing craft may be difficult to see and skippers need to maintain a proper lookout at all times and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.

All windsurfers and kiteboarders have a duty of care to ensure their activities are conducted with regard to the prevailing conditions and circumstances and take appropriate action to avoid collisions.

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) must be worn;
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (PLB must be worn).
- flares or EVDS (in lieu of flares) are required.



Paddle craft

Recreational canoes, kayaks, surf skis, wave skis, inflatables or similar paddle craft that are propelled by a person using a paddle must comply with WA marine laws.

When travelling beyond 400 metres from shore in unprotected waters you need:

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) must be worn;
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (PLB must be worn).
- flares or EVDS (in lieu of flares) are required.



Recreational Skipper's Ticket

The person in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor of **6 horsepower or less** is not required to hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST).

A skipper in charge of a recreational vessel with a motor **greater than 6 horsepower** is required to hold an RST and carry it when boating.

Age restrictions

A person under 10 years may not drive a motor boat.

RST holders over 14 but under 16 years of age are restricted to operating during daylight hours at a speed less than 8 knots.

How to get an RST

To obtain an RST you will need to pass an assessment delivered by an RST provider. The RST provider may also conduct training, but this is not compulsory. You can choose to study on your own, using the RST Workbook, which is only available online at transport.wa.gov.au/rst, and take the assessment.

Once you pass, the RST provider will issue you an RST Interim Certificate. Your RST card will be sent to you through the mail, once your details have been received and processed by the Department of Transport (DoT).

RST skills recognition and equivalents

If you hold a qualification from another state or country that is equivalent to the RST, or have a commercial certificate of competency, you may be eligible for exemption from the RST assessment and can receive an RST through skills recognition.

Medical fitness

Skippers are required to alert us if they develop a medical condition that affects their ability to safely operate a recreational vessel. More information can be found on our website under Recreational Skipper's Ticket.



Vessel registration

Most boats or yachts must be registered with DoT and an annual registration fee is payable.

Vessels that must be registered

If your boat has a motor, or is fitted for one, it must be registered. Yachts, canoes, surf skis and other craft not fitted for a motor are not required to be registered.

Transfer of ownership

You must advise DoT on the sale (within seven days) or the acquisition (within 15 days) of any power driven vessel.

Tender vessels

A tender to a larger vessel is exempt from registration provided it meets the following requirements:

- it is no more than 3.1 metres long and has a motor no bigger than 5 horsepower;
- is used only as a lifeboat and for ship to shore transport, and for no other purpose;
- must carry the correct safety equipment for the area of operation.

Placement of registration numbers

Contrasting block numbers must be displayed as follows:

Power boats: midships on the side of a vessel where they are clearly visible and not under the flare of the bow – size: 150 millimetres high.

Yachts: on the side of the hull immediately forward of the transom – size: 50 millimetres high.

Tenders: must have the parent vessel's number displayed on each side of the boat immediately forward of the transom – size: 50 millimetres high.

Personal water craft: both sides of the vessel where they can be clearly seen – size: 100 millimetres high.

Placement of registration label

To be displayed on the port (left) side of the vessel, outside and immediately adjacent to the registration number.

Interstate ticket and boat registration

If you hold a valid/current interstate ticket, recognised by DoT and you enter, as a visitor or with the intention of permanently residing in Western Australia, you have three months to have to have the qualification recognised.

Regardless from which state your boat is from you must hold a RST or equivalent to operate a vessel with a motor greater than 6 horsepower.

If your boat is registered in another state, you have three months after bringing it into WA to register it with DoT (Recreational boats brought in from the NT have only 30 days).

Collision regulations

- You must keep a good lookout and be ready to give way to other vessels if necessary.
- If you must give way, do so early and make a move which will be obvious to the other vessel.
- Always keep to the right hand side of channels.
- The golden rule: "look to the right, give way to the right, turn to the right and stay to the right".

Vessels approaching head on

Each vessel alters course to starboard and passes port to port.

Power driven vessels crossing

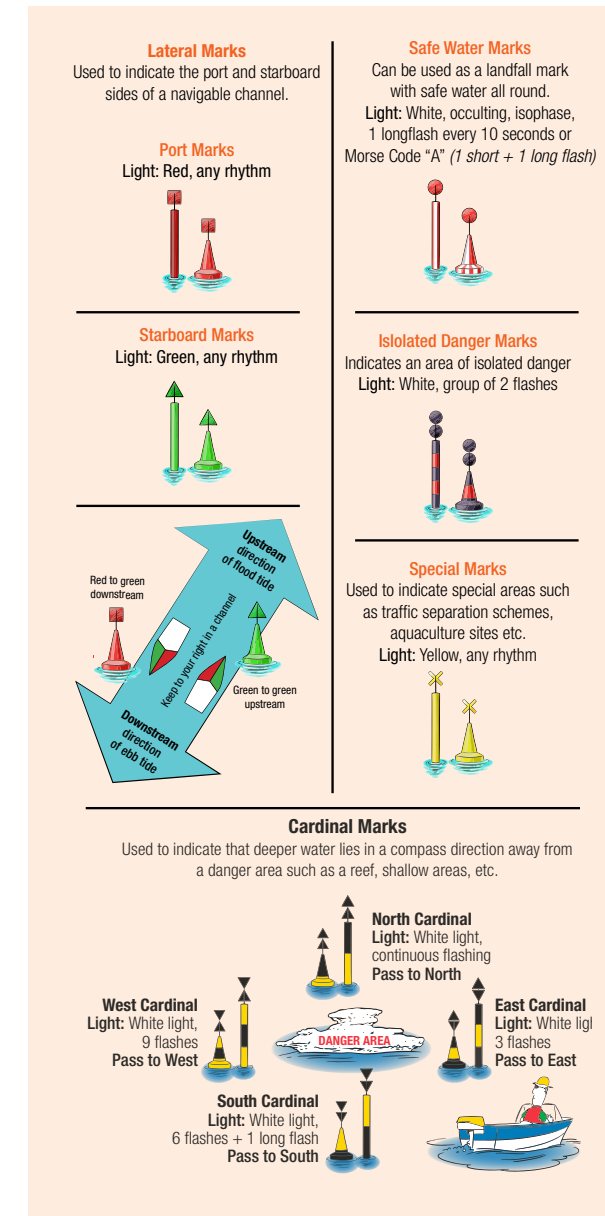
The vessel approaching from the right or starboard side has the right of way. However, if the give way vessel does not give way, the vessel with right of way must take action to avoid a collision. This rule does not relieve the give way vessel of its obligation to keep clear.

Overtaking

The overtaking vessel is required to keep out of the way of the vessel being overtaken. This applies to both sail and power boats. If a sailing vessel is overtaking a power boat the sailing boat must keep out of the way of the power boat until it is past and clear.

Navigation aids

Navigation marks are the equivalent of road signs on highways. It is important to be aware of what is meant by the various marks. Take time to study a chart or the system of buoys to familiarise yourself with their meaning.



Contact details

Department of Transport

Email: Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au
Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine
Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Police

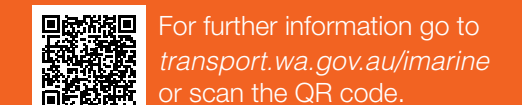
Emergency: 000
Water Police: 9442 8600

Boating Weather Forecasts

Boating weather: 1300 815 916
Website: www.bom.gov.au



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