

Equipment Requirements

It is unlawful for any person to operate any boat unless equipped properly and **no owner shall rent** such boat to any person unless such boat is properly equipped at rental for then existing conditions.

- **Bilge Ventilator:** It is unlawful to operate a boat, except those of open construction, using a liquid volatile fuel unless equipped with an efficient natural or mechanical bilge ventilator.
- **Boat Battery:** It shall be unlawful to operate a motor driven boat equipped with a storage battery unless such battery is secured against shifting. Such battery shall be equipped nonconductive terminal shields to prevent accidental shorting of battery terminals. Both positive and negative terminals need to be covered. (Covered battery box with strap works best.)
- **Capacity Plates:** The majority of boats manufactured or offered for sale in this state shall have affixed thereto a capacity plate. **Never exceed the maximum capacity limits of your boat.** To do so is to endanger your life and that of your passengers. It is also accepted evidence that you are operating your boat unlawfully.
- **Fire Extinguisher:** It is unlawful to operate a motorboat, except outboards of open construction, without fire extinguisher of the size, type and number as specified.
 - "Open construction"-Open construction means boat construction of a type that will not allow the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.
 - Such fire extinguisher shall be kept in condition for immediate and effective use and shall be so placed as to be readily accessible.

Fire extinguisher requirements by boat size and class:

A = Less than 16 ft.		= size B-I		
1 = 16 ft., less than 26 ft.		= 1 size B-I		
2 = 26 ft., less than 40 ft.		= 2 size B-I or 1 size BII		
3 = 40 ft. and over		= 3 size B-I or 1 size BII & 1 B-I		
Extinguisher Classes	Foam (Gals.)	CO2 (LBS)	Dry Chemical (LBS)	Halon (LBS)
B-I	1.25	4.0	2.0	2.5
B-II	2.5	15.0	10.0	10.0

- **Flame Arrester:** It is unlawful to operate a gasoline powered inboard boat unless the carburetor is fitted with a Coast Guard approved flame arrester.
- **Mufflers:** No person may operate a motorboat without a muffler or one which exceeds noise level standards (86 dB on an "A" weighted scale) with a muffler. Operators must submit to testing when requested. Muffler cutout devices are prohibited which allow the noise level to exceed 86 dB.
- **Toilets:** It is unlawful to maintain or operate any boat equipped with a toilet on the inland or outlying waters of this state unless such toilet is sealed or otherwise rendered inoperative or meets the specifications of the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations. Boat toilet requirements may be obtained from the DNR.