Module 1-Boating in Canada: Rules and Regulations

p. 2.-Introduction

1. What did the Canadian coast guard enact on Apr. 1, 1999?

the Competency of Operators Pleasure Craft Regulations

2. What do these regulations do?

These regulations phase in mandatory operator competency standards over a ten year period and require that operators obtain a Pleasure Craft Operator Card.

3. Who does this system affect and what does it involve?

This system affects operators of powered vessels and PWCs only, and involves operator competency training and age and horsepower restrictions.

p.3-Operator Competency

4. What are operators of a pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes required to cary with them onboard at all times?

Proof of competency

5. What Act is the Competency of Operators Pleasure Craft Regulations pursuant to?

Canada Shipping Act

6. If you are born after April 1, 1983, what do you have to obtain no matter what type of craft you operte?

Pleasure craft operator card

7. As of Sept 15, 2002 who must obtain and carry a pleasure craft operator card?

Any youth or adult operating a PWC or powerboat under 4 m (13 feet) in length

8. What are youths under 16 not allowed to do, even if they have a pleasure craft operator card?

Operate a PWC

9. What is true as of Sept 15, 2009?

all operators of power-driven craft will be required to carry a Pleasure Craft Operator Card.

10. What are the requirements for non residents?

Pleasure craft operator competency requirements apply to all non-residents operating their craft in Canadian

waters for more than forty five consecutive days.

11. What does a boating safety course teach you?

1) Teach you to be aware of the acts, code and regulations that govern actions on Canadian waterways

2) Teach you how to respond in emergency situations

3) Ensure you understand your responsibilities as a pleasure craft or PWC operator

4) Teach you how to properly and safely operate your pleasure craft or PWC

p. 4-operator competency cont.

12. What are the 3 forms of proof of competency?

1) Proof of having taken a boating safety course prior to 01 April 1999\*

2) A Pleasure Craft Operator Card issued following the successful completion of a Canadian Coast

Guard accredited proficiency exam such as the BOATsmart! Canada Challenge Exam

3) A completed rental-boat safety checklist (for power-driven rental boats and PWCs)

13. If you completed a boating safety course prior to Apr. 1, 1999, and have proof, would this be proof of competency? Yes

14. What mark do you need on the operator proficiency exam to qualify for a pleasure craft operator card? 75%

p.5- Age and Horsepower restrictions

15. What are the age and horsepower restriction categories?

- Under 12 years of age

- 12 to 15 years of age and not supervised

- 16 years of age and older

16. What are the rules for children under 12 years of age?

can operate a boat without supervision so long as the engine is not more than 10 hp (7.5 KW). (no PWC)

17. What are the rules for children 12-15 years of age?

can operate a vessel without supervision as long as the engine is not more than 40 hp (30KW). (no PWC)

18. What are the rules for 16 years of age and older?

can operate a vessel without supervision and there are no horsepower restrictions. (may operate PWC)

19. What are the supervision provisions for those under 16 years of age?

operate a power boat if accompanied and directly supervised in the powerboat by a person 16 years of age and older.

However, both the operator and supervisor must obtain and carry proof of competency onboard at all times.

p.6 Vessel Licensing and Registration

20. What is a capacity plate and what is it for?

a small metal plate that is permanently affixed to the hull of a pleasure craft. It verifies that your vessel meets Canada Construction Standards and indicates the various capacities of your vessel.

21. What vessles must have a capacity plate?

must be affixed to all vessels that can be powered by an engine of 10 hp (7.5 KW) or more. You also need a Capacity Plate in order to license or register your boat. It may also be required for home built boats.

22. What information is on a capacity plate?

Recommended Gross Load Capacity: The maximum weight your boat is designed to carry including persons, motor, steering assembly, fuel, all equipment and gear.

- Recommended Safe Limits of Engine Power: Indicates the maximum limit of engine horsepower based on the vessel’s gross load capacity.

- Adults: Indicates the maximum number of “equivalent adult persons” that your vessel can safely carry.

23. Under what act are all pleasure craft operators required to license their craft?

Small Vessel Regulations

24. What boats must be registered under the Small Vessel Regulations act?

All boats under 15 tons gross tonnage powered by 10 hp (7.5 KW) or more must be registered. This includes Personal Watercraft (PWC’s)

25. How can you register?

contacting the Canadian Coast Guard or the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and acquiring an Application for Vessel License

26. Do you have to carry a copy of the vessel license onboard?

You must carry a copy of the Vessel License in a watertight

27. Where does the vessel license number need to be attached and what are the rules regarding it?

You must affix the vessel license number to both sides of your boat near the bow. The license number must

appear in block characters no less than 75mm (7.5cm) in height and be in contrast to the color of the hull.

Script, italic and other lettering styles are not permitted.

p.7 Operating responsibly

28. What are you expected to know as a pleasure craft operator?

know the rules and regulations that govern Canada’s waterways. You are responsible for equipping yourself

and for operating your boat in a safe and courteous manner. You are also responsible for ensuring the safety

of your passengers and other boaters.

29. Is it an offense to be impaired while operating a pleasure craft in Canada?

Yes- an offence under Section 253 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

30. What are the possible consequences for being charged if impaired while operating a pleasure craft?

Criminal record and significant fines- can also restrict your operation of an motorized vehicle fro 6 mos -3 yrs

31. Since you are required by law to operate your craft in a safe and courteous manner, what should you consider when operating your craft?

- Your distance from shore - Water and wind speed conditions- Visibility conditions

- Local hazards and obstructions- The amount of boat traffic in the vicinity

- Posted speed limits - The performance and capabilities of your craft- Your level of skill and experience

p.8 Operating responsibly continued

32. What should you instruct your passengers on when they are in your pleasure craft?

- How to operate the craft in case of emergency- The location of the craft’s emergency kit

- How to rescue a person overboard- How to properly use an approved PFD or Lifejacket

33. What should passengers understand?

- Always wear an approved PFD or Lifejacket

- Be aware that the effects of sunlight, motion,waves, wind and sound can impair judgement

- Keep close to the centreline and as low as possible when moving around in the craft

- Keep hands and feet inside the craft when departing or returning to the dock

- Refrain from consuming alcohol while onboard

34. What are you required to do by law (canada shipping act)when you see fellow boaters in distress?

You must come to their aid as long as it doesn’t put your carft or passengers at risk- keep a lookout for signals of distress and need of assistance

35. If you are involved in a collision you must…? Stop and offer assistance (criminal code of acanada)

36. What are you responsible for if you lend your pleasure craft or PWC?

- The person borrowing your craft understands boating rules and is a responsible person

- The person borrowing your craft has a Pleasure Craft Operator Card

- He or she is wearing an approved PFD or Lifejacket

37. What should you review with anyone borrowing your pleasure craft or PWC?

- Any local hazards or obstructions

- Navigation and right-of-way rules

- The location of all required safety equipment onboard your craft

- The handling characteristics of your craft

p.9-Code, Acts and Regulations

38. Are Marine acts, regulations and codes considered law? What are these acts?

Yes. - The Criminal Code of Canada

- The Canada Shipping Act including the:

- Small Vessel Regulations - Collision Regulations- Boating Restriction Regulations

- Charts & Nautical Publications Regulations- Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations

- The Contraventions Act

39. Where are the main provisions for recreational boating in Canada contained in?

Canada Shipping act and Criminal code of Canada

40. What is the Canada Shipping Act?

The Canada Shipping Act is the “umbrella” act under which all boating regulations are developed in Canada.

It incorporates international and federal laws and regulates all vessels operating on Canadian waterways.

p. 10-Code, Acts and Regulatiosns cont.

41. What does the Small Vessel Regulations outline and what are the five key areas it governs?

outline the power limits

and licensing requirements for all recreational vessels.The regulations also stipulate the minimum mandatory

safety equipment required onboard at all times- governs - Construction Standards- Safe Operating Rules

- Required Safety Equipment- Required Maintenance- Registration and Licensing

42. What does the Charts and Nautical publications regulations do?

provide the information necessary in order to safely navigate Canada’s lakes, rivers and waterways.

43. What is required by law under the Charts and Nautical publications regulations?

most recent editions of:- The largest scale charts for the area that they navigate- The required publications for the area that they navigate- The required documents for the area that they navigate

44. What does the Boating restrictions regulations do?

impose standardized speed limits, shoreline speed zones and horsepower limits. The regulations also limit where

certain types of boats may or may not be permitted to operate in Canada.

p.11-Code, Acts and Regulations cont.

45. Wjat dpes the Contraventions act do?

enables local authorities to write tickets for offences that result in a fine but not a criminal record. Examples include:

- Disregarding speed limits- Careless operation- Operating without the prescribed safety equipment

46. What do the collision regulations do and what do they govern?

stipulate the rules preventing collisions on the high seas and inland waterways. - Govern Navigation- Speed restrictions- Right-of-way rules- Look-out rules

47. What does the criminal code of Canada do?

enables law enforcement authorities to charge boat operators for criminal offences.

- Stipulates that a pleasure craft operator is required to stop and offer assistance when the operator has

been involved in a collision.

- Stipulates that vessels are prohibited from being operated in a manner that is dangerous to the public

- Prohibits false emergency signals or messages -

 Prohibits operators from interfering with marine signals and navigation aids

- Requires that a person other than the operator must keep watch of any person being towed (such

as a water-skier)

- Prohibits the towing of water-skiers after dark

- Prohibits the operation of a vessel which is known to be in unseaworthy condition

- Prohibits the operation of a vessel while under the influence of drugs, alcohol or controlled substances

p.12-Protecting the environment

48. What is one of the main laws that protect Canada’s aquatic environment?

The Fisheries act- It is an offence to deposit or permit the deposit of any material that can have a negative effect on fish and their habitat. Canadian boaters are also required by law to report incidents and evidence of pollution.