

**LIGHTS REQUIRED ON BOATS UNDERWAY BETWEEN SUNSET AND SUNRISE**

UNDER 26'		26' TO NOT MORE THAN 65'		UNDER 40 GROSS TONS		UNDER 20 GROSS TONS	
MOTORBOAT	AUXILIARY; SAIL & POWER OR POWER ALONE	MOTORBOAT	AUXILIARY; SAIL & POWER OR POWER ALONE	MOTORBOAT	AUXILIARY; SAIL & POWER OR POWER ALONE	AUXILIARY: SAIL ALONE	ALL SAIL BOATS
White all around (32 pt.) 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. Separate red & green sidelights 10 pt. 1 mi.	Combination red & green 20 pt. 1 mi. OR White all around (32 pt.) 2 mi. OR White 20 pt. 3 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 20 pt. 3 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 20 pt. 3 mi.	White all around (32 pt.) 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. Separate red & green sidelights 10 pt. 1 mi.	White 20 pt. 2 mi. OR White all around (32 pt.) 2 mi. OR White 20 pt. 3 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 20 pt. 3 mi.	White all around (32 pt.) 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. Separate red & green sidelights 10 pt. 1 mi.	White 20 pt. 2 mi. OR White all around (32 pt.) 2 mi. OR White 20 pt. 3 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 20 pt. 3 mi.	Combination red & green 20 pt. 1 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi.	Combination red & green 20 pt. 1 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi. OR White 12 pt. stern light 2 mi.

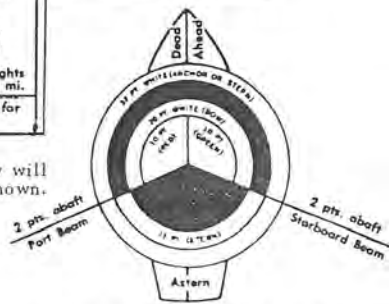
Note: On interior (non-federal) waters of the state, vessels propelled by sail alone may omit the white lights called for in diagram above.

Any vessel may carry and exhibit the lights required by the federal regulations in lieu of the lights required by the New York State Navigation Law.

The International System requires the 20 pt. white light be placed 3' above the side lights or combination light on craft of less than 40'; 9' above the gunwale on craft of 40' and over. Rowing boats, whether under oars or sail, shall have ready at hand a white light which shall be temporarily exhibited in time to prevent collision.

**ANCHOR LIGHTS**-All vessels under 150' in length at anchor must display a single 32 pt. white light between sunset and sunrise. In a "special anchorage area" as defined by the U.S. Army Engineers vessels of 65' in length or less are exempt from showing an anchor light. **FLAME ARRESTER**-Carburetors on all motorboat engines (other than outboards) must be fitted with a Coast Guard approved device for arresting backfire. **VENTILATION**-Two or more ventilators with cowls or equivalent, capable of removing gases from the bilges in engine and fuel tank compartments, are required on motorboats using gasoline or fuel with a flashpoint of less than 110°F.\*

Lights must be screened so they will only show through the arcs shown.



**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**-Must be Coast Guard Approved. Not required on outboard motorboats of open construction less than 26 feet in length.\*

\*For exceptions see New York State Navigation Law.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY LAW	NON-MECHANICALLY PROPELLED CRAFT	MOTORBOATS			
		Class A-Less than 16 ft. in length	Class 1-16 ft. to less than 26 feet in length	Class 2-26 ft. to less than 40 ft. in length	Class 3-40 ft. to 65 ft. in length
*LIFESAVING DEVICES	One life preserver, buoyant vest, ring buoy or buoyant cushion for each person aboard.				One life preserver or ring buoy for each person on board.
BELL	None required.	None required.	None required.	One which when struck, produces a clear, bell-like tone.	
HORN OR WHISTLE	None required.	A hand, mouth, or power operated producing a blast of two seconds audible 1/2 mile.		One hand or power operated producing a blast of 2 seconds audible 1/2 mile.	One power operated producing a blast of 2 seconds audible 1/2 mile.
ANCHOR	None required.	Anchor and line of sufficient length, weight and strength to provide safe anchorage.			
*FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	None required.	1-B1	1-B1	2-B1 or 1-B2	3-B1 or 1-B2 & 1-B1

\*All must be approved by U. S. Coast Guard and in good serviceable condition.

(Cont'd from other side)

waters within their jurisdiction. Check with officials in the locality in which you intend to operate your boat.

**VIOLATIONS**

Violations of any of the provisions of the Navigation Law are punishable by a fine or imprisonment or both.

**ACCIDENTS**

The operator of a vessel involved in an accident must stop and render such assistance to other persons affected by the accident as may be practical and necessary in order to prevent further injury and to minimize any danger resulting from the accident.

He shall exhibit the certificate of registration for the vessel and also give his name, address

and the number of his boat in writing to any person injured and to the owner of any property damaged in the accident.

Whenever any vessel, including rowboats and canoes, meets with an accident involving a loss of life, personal injury or property damage in excess of \$100.00, the operator of the vessel must file a report with the Division of Motor Boats within seven days.

In the event the person injured or the owner of property damaged in an accident cannot be located at the site, then the operator of the vessel involved shall report the accident to the nearest police agency within 24 hours.

If the operator of a vessel involved in an accident is physically incapable of filing a report, then other participants in the boat involved or the owner of the boat shall file the report in the operator's stead.

**AGE OF OPERATOR**

Children under the age of 10 may not operate a mechanically-propelled vessel in New York State waters unless accompanied by a person over the age of 14.

Persons age 10 through 14 may not operate a mechanically-propelled vessel in New York State waters unless he or she is the holder of a boating safety certificate or unless accompanied by a person over the age of 14.

To obtain the boating safety certificate, youngsters age 10 through 14 must take the New York State Young Boatman's Safety Course which is taught throughout the state by volunteer instructors. Information on the course may be obtained by writing to N. Y. S. Conservation Department, Division of Motor Boats, Bureau of Education and Safety, State Office Building Campus, Albany, N. Y. 12226.

**BOATING COURSES**

Courses for adults are offered without charge in every part of the state by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the U. S. Power Squadron and other organizations. To register in these courses which cover small craft operation and maintenance, navigation and mechanics, consult the local unit of these voluntary organizations.

**RULES FOR SAILING VESSELS**

When two sailing vessels are approaching one another, so as to involve risk of collision, one of them shall keep out of the way of the other as follows:

A vessel which is running free shall keep out of the way of a vessel which is closehauled.

A vessel which is closehauled on the port tack shall keep out of the way of a vessel which is closehauled on the starboard tack.

When both are running free, with the wind on different sides, the vessel which has the wind on the port side shall keep out of the way of the other.

When both are running free, with the wind on the same side, the vessel which is to windward shall keep out of the way of the vessel which is to leeward.

A vessel which has the wind aft shall keep out of the way of the other vessel.

New York State

**BOATING RULES and REGULATIONS**



A summary of New York State's Navigation Law relating to pleasure craft

**A Handbook**



STATE OF NEW YORK  
NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER, Governor  
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT  
R. STEWART KILBORNE, Commissioner  
DIVISION OF MOTOR BOATS  
JAMES J. O'BRIEN, Director

## REGISTRATION LAW

New York State law requires that every mechanically-propelled vessel operated on the navigable waters of the state, or on any other waters within the boundaries of the state (except those waters which are privately owned and not used by the public) shall be registered and numbered. No person may operate or give permission for the operation of any motor driven vessel on state waters unless it is registered and numbered in accordance with the law. The registration certificate must be on board whenever the vessel is in operation and must be available at all times for inspection.

## WHO MUST REGISTER

In New York State all owners of mechanically-propelled vessels (except documented vessels) are required to register their boats. There are no size or horsepower limitations. Sailboats, which use auxiliary power, either inboard or outboard, must also be registered.

## CONTINUITY OF OWNERSHIP, SELLING A BOAT

Applications for Boat Registration numbers must be accompanied by such evidence of ownership as required by law. The registration certificate of the previous owner, properly signed, dated and showing the name of the new owner or a valid bill of sale signed by the seller or copy thereof is acceptable evidence of ownership.

A valid bill of sale shall contain notice to the seller that false statements contained therein are punishable according to law. The bill of sale shall contain also the registration number, make of vessel, year built, length, hull number and engine serial number.

If the vessel has passed through the hands of more than one purchaser since last being registered, valid bills of sale or copies thereof from each purchaser to the next shall be submitted, beginning with the last registrant and ending with the applicant for registration. If this vessel has never been registered, bills of sale from the first owner or dealer or builder of the vessel and each successive owner of this vessel are required.

When a registered boat is sold, the seller must complete the reverse side of the certificate of registration with his signature, the date of sale, and the name of the new owner. He shall also notify the Division of Motor Boats of the name of the purchaser, the date of sale and the registration number.

The certificate of registration must then be given to the new owner who, if he wishes to register the vessel, shall forward the certificate with the completed application for boat registration and the proper fee to the Division of Motor Boats. There are no provisions in the New York State Navigation Law for the transfer of all or part of the unused registration fee from one boat to another or from one owner to another.

Applicants whose boats were previously

registered by them in another state must present their registration certificate or, in place of it, a certification from the Boat Registration authorities of that state verifying the fact that the boat in question was duly registered in that state. In the event that applicant purchases a boat from the resident of another state a valid bill of sale or copy thereof from the former owner must accompany the out-of-state certification.

Where an applicant has constructed a boat from a manufacturer's kit, the bill of sale or copy thereof from the manufacturer or his agent will be accepted. The builder of a homemade boat must accompany his application with an affidavit to that effect.

In case of the death of the owner of a motor boat registered in New York State, transfer of the registration to the new owner of the vessel can be accomplished by sending to the Division of Motor Boats a copy of the death certificate of the owner and evidence of authority to administer the estate, together with the properly filled out plastic certificate of registration or a valid bill of sale.

## THE NUMBERING SYSTEM

The numbering system consists of the letters NY followed by not more than four arabic numerals and two capital letters. The letters I, O and Q will not be used. In placing the number on the boat, space equivalent in width to the width of any letter excepting I must be left between the letters and the digits. Example: NY 1234 AA. (If the owner wishes, hyphens may be used between the letters and numbers. Example: NY-1234-AA.)

The number assigned must be painted on or attached to each side of the bow of the vessel for which it has been issued. No other number shall be carried on the bow of such craft. The number shall read from left to right, shall be in block characters of good proportion not less than three (3) inches in height. The number shall be of a color that will contrast with the color of the hull and so maintained as to be clearly discernible and legible during daylight hours at a distance of 100 feet.

## CAPACITY PLATE

All new boats under 26 feet in length designed to carry two or more persons, and to be propelled by machinery or oars, manufactured or offered for sale in New York after January 1, 1969, must carry a permanently affixed plate listing:

the total weight of persons, motor, gear and other articles the vessel is capable of carrying safely under normal conditions;

the recommended number of persons and their presumed weight (at least 150 pounds per person) commensurate with the vessel's capacity;

the maximum horsepower of the motor the vessel is designed or intended to accommodate (if designed for use with an outboard motor).

## RULES OF THE ROAD

### Signals

— One blast means "I am directing my course to starboard (right)" except in crossing situations when it signifies the intention of the vessel to starboard to hold course and speed.

— Two blasts means "I am directing my course to port (left)."

— Three blasts means "My engines are going full speed astern."

— DANGER SIGNAL — Several (not less than five) short and rapid blasts.

### Reduced Visibility Signals

In fog or other types of reduced visibility, travel at reduced speed and sound one long blast of whistle every minute. When towing in reduced visibility, sound one long and two short blasts every minute. When anchored in fog, ring bell or sound other warning signal for at least five seconds each minute.

### Crossing Situations

The boat to starboard (right side) has the right of way and must hold course and speed. The burdened vessel shall keep clear and pass astern of the privileged vessel.

### Meeting Situations

A — In meeting head-on both vessels shall turn to starboard (right) and pass port to port. The signal in this situation is one blast on the whistle initiated by either boat and answered by the other craft.

B — When vessels are already far enough to starboard (right) of each other as not to be considered meeting head-on either boat shall initiate a two blast signal which shall be answered by the other with two blasts and they shall pass starboard to starboard (no course change necessary).

### Passing Situations

The vessel being overtaken has the right of way. Overtaking vessel signals with one blast of whistle for passing on starboard (right) side of the boat ahead and two blasts for passing on port (left) side of the boat ahead. If overtaken vessel answers with like signal the other boat may pass. If overtaken vessel sounds danger signal other vessel may not pass until such time as the overtaken craft initiates appropriate passing signals.

### Sailing Vessels

Sailing craft shall have the right of way over mechanically propelled vessels except when overtaking. This rule shall not be construed as giving a sailing vessel the right to hamper, in a narrow channel, the safe passage of a larger craft or mechanically propelled vessels which can navigate only inside such a channel.

### Narrow Channels

All vessels keep to the right in narrow channels.

### Aid in Distress

Whenever possible it shall be the duty of every boat operator to give assistance to other vessels in distress.

## Departure from Rules

It shall be the duty of every operator to strictly abide by the rules. However, when immediate danger exists, the operator shall, if necessary, depart from the rules to the extent necessary to avoid collision.

## SPEED AND RECKLESS OPERATION

Vessels shall be operated in a careful and prudent manner at all times and at such rate of speed as not to unreasonably interfere with the free and proper use of the navigable waters of the State or unreasonably endanger any craft or person.

No vessel shall be operated within one hundred feet of the shore, a dock, pier, raft, float or anchored boat at a speed exceeding five miles per hour.

## WATER SKIING

There shall be two persons in a boat that is towing a water skier, one to operate the boat and the other to observe the progress and safety of the skier. The observer must be 10 or more years of age.

Water skiing is prohibited from sunset to one hour after sunrise on all navigable waters of the State.

Persons waterskiing on the inland waters of Chautauqua County or on the waters of Lake George are required to wear a life preserver, life belt, or similar device.

A water skier shall not manipulate his skis in such a manner as to endanger the life or property of another person.

## SEARCHLIGHTS

It is unlawful to flash searchlights into the eyes of the operator of an approaching vessel.

## MUFFLERS

Every internal combustion engine shall be effectively muffled. Use of cutouts is prohibited except in duly authorized regattas.

## DEPOSIT OF REFUSE

It is unlawful to litter, drain or deposit offensive matter into the navigable waters of the state. Violations are punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.

No person operating a water craft with a marine toilet shall use or permit the use of such toilet on the waters of this State unless the toilet is equipped with a device that will treat, hold, incinerate or otherwise handle sewage in a manner that is capable of preventing water pollution in compliance with applicable public health standards. This device must conform to the boating safety standards and rules and regulations of the Division of Motor Boats.

The sale of devices which treat, hold, or otherwise handle sewage from marine toilets which do not comply with the above requirements is prohibited in the State of New York.

## REGULATION ZONES

Under certain conditions Counties, Towns and Villages may regulate the speed of boats on