

CHAPTER 82

BOATING REGULATIONS

Authority

N.J.S.A. 12:7-34.49 and 12:7A-28.

Source and Effective Date

R.1999 d.127, effective March 24, 1999.
See: 31 N.J.R. 113(a), 31 N.J.R. 1069(a).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 82, Boating Regulations, expires on March 24, 2004.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 82, Boating Regulations, was adopted as R.1994 d.205, effective April 18, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 744(a), 26 N.J.R. 1673(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 82, Boating Regulations, was readopted as R.1999 d.127, effective March 24, 1999. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. EQUIPMENT

13:82-1.1 Scope

The rules in this chapter shall govern the operation of vessels on tidal and nontidal waters of the State of New Jersey.

13:82-1.2 Construction

(a) These rules shall be liberally construed to permit the Department and its various agencies to discharge statutory functions.

(b) As used in these rules, "Department" means the Department of Law and Public Safety, "Commission" means the Boat Regulation Commission, and "State Police" means the Division of State Police, Troop F.

(c) These rules are to be construed consistent with Federal law and all regulations adopted by the United States Coast Guard, as amended and as may be amended, and other applicable laws or regulations relating to vessels.

Amended by R.1999 d.127, effective April 19, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 113(a), 31 N.J.R. 1069(a).

In (a), deleted a reference to the Marine Law Enforcement Bureau; and rewrote (b) and (c).

13:82-1.3 Equipment

(a) No person shall operate or allow any person to operate any motorboat in or on the waters of this State unless said motorboat is carrying on board the minimum equipment for motorboats as is required in 33 C.F.R. Part 175, amendments thereto and as may be amended.

(b) Whenever such motorboat is in operation, this equipment shall be produced by the operator or the captain of the motorboat upon the request of a law enforcement officer of this State.

(c) Failure to produce such equipment will be a violation of this section.

Amended by R.1999 d.127, effective April 19, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 113(a), 31 N.J.R. 1069(a).

Rewrote (a).

13:82-1.4 Personal flotation devices

(a) No person shall operate or allow any person to operate any vessel in or on the waters of this State unless such vessel has a serviceable United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board. Such PFD shall be of the type(s) and number(s) required by the United States Coast Guard for a vessel of that class operating on navigable waters. This section applies to all vessels except surfboards, racing shells, rowing sculls and racing kayaks.

(b) In accordance with P.L. 1999, c.161, every person who operates a vessel on the waters of this State with a child 12 years of age or younger on board shall have the child wear a properly fitted United States Coast Guard approved PFD whenever the vessel is underway. The PFD shall be fully secured on the child by all means provided in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

(c) Subsection (b) above shall not apply when the child is inside a fully enclosed cabin that is a permanent, non-removable part of the vessel that is intended by the vessel's manufacturer to carry passengers.

(d) The following classes of vessels shall be exempt from the requirements of (b) above:

1. Vessels owned and operated by the United States;
2. Vessels owned or operated by the State of New Jersey or an agency thereof, a county, a municipality, a volunteer first aid, rescue or emergency squad, a search and rescue unit established within a fire district created pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70 or a volunteer fire company created pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70.1 when a child is on board as a direct result of being rescued from an emergency situation;
3. Commercial vessels; and
4. Ferries.

(e) For the purposes of this section, "commercial vessel" means any vessel longer than 65 feet operated for a purpose that requires a United States Coast Guard Operator's or Master's License. "Ferry" means any vessel longer than 65 feet operating on a short run on a frequent schedule between two points offering a public service of a type normally attributed to a bridge or tunnel.

Amended by R.1999 d.127, effective April 19, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 113(a), 31 N.J.R. 1069(a).

Substituted "section applies to" for "rule includes" in the last sentence.

Amended by R.2000 d.89, effective March 6, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2465(a), 32 N.J.R. 814(a).

Added (a) designation; and added (b) through (e).

13:82-1.5 Rotating lights

(a) No vessel shall display a rotating or sequential flashing light except as provided in this section.

(b) Any law enforcement or emergency vessel may display a rotating blue light beacon.

(c) Any vessel engaged in activity recognized by the Coast Guard as being eligible for its use may display a rotating red and yellow light.

13:82-1.6 Siren

No vessel shall be equipped with, nor shall any person use upon a vessel, any siren except as otherwise permitted in this section. It is permissible that any vessel be equipped with a theft alarm signal device which is so arranged that it cannot be used by the operator as an ordinary warning signal. This section shall not apply to any vessel operated by or for the Department, a first aid squad, or a police or fire department.

Amended by R.1999 d.127, effective April 19, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 113(a), 31 N.J.R. 1069(a).

13:82-1.7 Speed

(a) No person shall operate a power vessel or allow a power vessel to be operated in a manner where the speed and/or wake of the power vessel may cause danger or injury to life or limb or damage to property.

(b) All power vessels shall reduce their speed to slow speed/no wake when passing:

1. Any marina, pier, dock, wharf or abutment at a distance of 200 feet or less, except on Lake Hopatcong, which shall be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 13:82-3.11;

2. Work barges or work floats while actually engaged in construction;

3. Through bridge spans;

4. Through lagoons, canals and confined areas of less than 200 feet in width;

5. Vessels not under command; or

6. Emergency vessels displaying sequential flashing or rotating blue lights.

(c) "Slow Speed/No Wake" as used in this section means the speed at which a power vessel moves through the water and is able to maintain minimum headway in relation to the vessel or structure being passed and producing the minimum wake possible.

(d) All power vessels, when moving through an area not specified in (b) above that has been designated as a "Slow Speed/No Wake" area by the State Police either by buoys or by signs stating "Slow Speed" and/or "No Wake" shall reduce their speed to "Slow Speed/No Wake."

(e) A "Slow Speed/No Wake" area is any area defined in (b) above and any area within 200 feet of a State Police authorized "Slow Speed/No Wake" sign or buoy.