

**CHAPTER 82**  
**BOATING REGULATIONS**

**Authority**

N.J.S.A. 12:7-34.40 and 34.49, and 12:7A-28.

**Source and Effective Date**

R.2010 d.031, effective January 4, 2010.  
See: 41 N.J.R. 3033(a), 42 N.J.R. 636(a).

**Chapter Expiration Date**

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 82, Boating Regulations, expires on January 4, 2017. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

**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).

Subchapter 9, Certificate of Ownership Fees, was adopted as R.1995 d.365, effective July 3, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 1521(b), 27 N.J.R. 2592(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 82, Boating Regulations, was readopted as R.1999 d.127, effective March 24, 1999. See: 31 N.J.R. 113(a), 31 N.J.R. 1069(a).

Chapter 82, Boating Regulations, was readopted as R.2004 d.318, effective July 22, 2004. See: 36 N.J.R. 1174(a), 36 N.J.R. 3886(a).

Chapter 82, Boating Regulations, was readopted as R.2010 d.031, effective January 4, 2010. As part of R.2010 d.031, Subchapter 4, Watercraft Noise Control, was renamed Power Vessel Noise Control, effective March 1, 2010. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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## SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

**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.

(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).  
Administrative change.  
See: 32 N.J.R. 2909(b).

**13:82-1.3 Equipment**

(a) No person shall operate or allow any person to operate any vessel in or on the waters of this State unless the vessel is carrying on board the minimum equipment required by Title 33 and Title 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations, amendments thereto and as may be amended, for the size and type of vessel.

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

(c) Failure to produce such equipment shall 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).  
Amended by R.2004 d.318, effective August 16, 2004 (operative October 1, 2004).

See: 36 N.J.R. 1174(a), 36 N.J.R. 3886(a).  
Substituted references to vessel for references to motorboat throughout; in (a), amended the C.F.R. reference and inserted ", for the size and type of vessel" at the end; in (b), substituted "owner or operator" for "operator or the captain of the motorboat".

Amended by R.2010 d.031, effective March 1, 2010.  
See: 41 N.J.R. 3033(a), 42 N.J.R. 636(a).

In (c), substituted "shall" for "will".

**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 per-

sonal flotation device (PFD) readily accessible 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 N.J.S.A. 12:7-47.1, 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 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).  
Amended by R.2004 d.318, effective August 16, 2004 (operative October 1, 2004).

See: 36 N.J.R. 1174(a), 36 N.J.R. 3886(a).

In (a), inserted "readily accessible" following "personal flotation device (PFD)"; in (b), amended the N.J.S.A. reference.

**13:82-1.5 Rotating lights**

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