

Minimum Safety Equipment Requirements

The following table lists the minimum safety equipment required on board a pleasure craft. You may want to bring more equipment based on your type of boat, your activity and the current and forecasted weather and water conditions. Once you know the equipment you must carry on board your boat, read the following sections so you can get specific information about each piece.

REMEMBER: If you want information on workboats or commercial vessels' (non-pleasure craft) mandatory equipment, visit [Transport Canada's website](#).

Boat Type and Length	Personal Lifesaving Appliances	Visual Signals	Vessel Safety Equipment	Navigation Equipment	Fire Fighting Equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddleboats • Watercycles • Stand-up Paddleboards • Sealed-Hull and Sit-on-Top Kayaks 	1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board* 2. One (1) reboarding device <i>(See Note 1)</i> 3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long	<i>If boat is over 6 m</i> 4. One (1) watertight flashlight 5. Six (6) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than two (2) of which are Type D OR Three (3) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than one (1) of which is Type D, if boat is equipped with an electronic communication device <i>(See Note 2)</i>	6. One (1) bailer OR One manual bilge pump <i>(See Note 3)</i> OR Bilge-pumping arrangements	7. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance 8. Navigation lights <i>(See Note 4)</i> 9. One (1) magnetic compass <i>(See Note 5)</i> 10. One (1) radar reflector <i>(See Note 6)</i>	None
<p><i>*If everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket or a PFD of appropriate size, you are only required to carry :</i></p> <p>1) <i>a sound-signalling device; and</i></p> <p>2) <i>a watertight flashlight if the boat is used after sunset or before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility.</i></p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoes • Kayaks • Rowboats • Rowing Shells • Other Human-Powered Boats 	1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board 2. One (1) reboarding device <i>(See Note 1)</i> 3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long	<i>If boat is over 6 m</i> 4. One (1) watertight flashlight 5. Six (6) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than two (2) of which are Type D OR Three (3) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than one (1) of which is Type D, if boat is equipped with an electronic communication device <i>(See Note 2)</i>	6. One (1) bailer OR One manual bilge pump <i>(See Note 3)</i> OR Bilge-pumping arrangements	7. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance 8. Navigation lights <i>(See Note 4)</i> 9. One (1) magnetic compass <i>(See Note 5)</i> 10. One (1) radar reflector <i>(See Note 6)</i>	None

Boat Type and Length	Personal Lifesaving Appliances	Visual Signals	Vessel Safety Equipment	Navigation Equipment	Fire Fighting Equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sailboards Kiteboards 	1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board* 2. One (1) reboarding device <i>(See Note 1)</i> 3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long	None	5. One (1) manual propelling device OR One (1) anchor and at least 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination 6. One (1) bailer or manual bilge pump <i>(See Note 3)</i>	7. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance 8. Navigation lights <i>(See Note 4)</i> 9. One (1) magnetic compass <i>(See Note 5)</i> 10. One (1) radar reflector <i>(See Note 6)</i>	None

**If everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket or a PFD of appropriate size, you are only required to carry :*

- 1) a sound-signalling device; and
- 2) a watertight flashlight if the boat is used after sunset or before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility.

NOTE: Kiteboarders and sailboarders should not wear a lifejacket or PFD that is fitted with an automatic inflator.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Watercraft (PWC) 	1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board* 2. One (1) reboarding device <i>(See Note 1)</i> 3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long	4. One (1) watertight flashlight OR Three (3) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than one (1) of which is Type D <i>(See Note 2)</i>	5. One (1) manual propelling device OR One (1) anchor and at least 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination 6. One (1) bailer or manual bilge pump <i>(See Note 3)</i>	7. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance 8. Navigation lights <i>(See Note 4)</i> 9. One (1) magnetic compass <i>(See Note 5)</i> 10. One (1) radar reflector <i>(See Note 6)</i>	11. One (1) 5BC fire extinguisher
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**If every person on board a personal watercraft is wearing a lifejacket or a PFD of an appropriate size, you are only required to carry:*

- 1) a sound-signalling device;
- 2) a watertight flashlight or three pyrotechnic distress signals not more than one of which is a smoke signal;
- 3) a magnetic compass if the personal watercraft is navigated out of sight of navigation marks; and
- 4) navigation lights if the personal watercraft is used after sunset or before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility.

NOTE: Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant.

Boat Type and Length	Personal Lifesaving Appliances	Visual Signals	Vessel Safety Equipment	Navigation Equipment	Fire Fighting Equipment
Sail and Power Boats up to 6 m (19'8")	1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board 2. One (1) reboarding device (See Note 1) 3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long	<i>If boat is equipped with a motor</i> 4. One (1) watertight flashlight OR Three (3) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than one (1) of which is Type D (See Note 2)	5. One (1) manual propelling device OR One (1) anchor and at least 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination 6. One (1) bailer or manual bilge pump (See Note 3)	7. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance 8. Navigation lights (See Note 4) 9. One (1) magnetic compass (See Note 5) 10. One (1) radar reflector (See Note 6)	11. One (1) 5BC fire extinguisher if equipped with an inboard engine, a fixed fuel tank of any size, or a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance
Sail and Power Boats over 6 m and up to 9 m (19'8" - 29'6")	1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board 2. One (1) reboarding device (See Note 1) 3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long OR One (1) lifebuoy attached to a buoyant line at least 15 m (49'3") long	4. One (1) watertight flashlight 5. Six (6) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than two (2) of which are Type D OR Three (3) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than one (1) of which is Type D, if boat is equipped with an electronic communication device (See Note 2)	6. One (1) manual propelling device OR One (1) anchor and at least 15 m (49'3") of cable, rope or chain in any combination 7. One (1) bailer or manual bilge pump (See Note 3)	8. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance 9. Navigation lights (See Note 4) 10. One (1) magnetic compass (See Note 5) 11. One (1) radar reflector (See Note 6)	12. One (1) 5BC fire extinguisher if equipped with a motor 13. One (1) 5BC fire extinguisher if equipped with a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance
Sail and Power Boats over 9 m and up to 12 m (29'6" - 39'4")	1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board 2. One (1) reboarding device (See Note 1) 3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long 4. One (1) lifebuoy attached to a buoyant line at least 15 m (49'3") long	5. One (1) watertight flashlight 6. Twelve (12) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than six (6) of which are Type D OR Six (6) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than three (3) of which are Type D, if boat is equipped with an electronic communication device (See Note 2)	7. One (1) anchor and at least 30 m (98'5") of cable, rope or chain in any combination 8. One (1) manual bilge pump (See Note 3) OR Bilge-pumping arrangements	9. One (1) sound-signalling device or appliance 10. Navigation lights (See Note 4) 11. One (1) magnetic compass (See Note 5) 12. One (1) radar reflector (See Note 6)	13. One (1) 10BC fire extinguisher if equipped with a motor 14. One (1) 10BC fire extinguisher if equipped with a fuel-burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance

Boat Type and Length	Personal Lifesaving Appliances	Visual Signals	Vessel Safety Equipment	Navigation Equipment	Fire Fighting Equipment
Sail and Power Boats over 12 m and up to 24 m (39'4" – 78'9")	<p>1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board</p> <p>2. One (1) reboarding device</p> <p>(See Note 1)</p> <p>3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 15 m (49'3") long</p> <p>4. One (1) lifebuoy equipped with a self-igniting light or attached to a buoyant line at least 15 m (49'3") long</p>	<p>5. One (1) watertight flashlight</p> <p>6. Twelve (12) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than six (6) of which are Type D</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Six (6) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than three (3) of which are Type D, if boat is equipped with an electronic communication device</p> <p>(See Note 2)</p>	<p>7. One (1) anchor and at least 50 m (164'1") of cable, rope or chain in any combination</p> <p>8. Bilge-pumping arrangements</p>	<p>9. One (1) sound-signalling appliance. Two required if the boat is 20 m and over that meets the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations</p> <p>10. Navigation lights</p> <p>(See Note 4)</p> <p>11. One (1) magnetic compass that meets the requirements set out in the Navigation Safety Regulations</p> <p>(See Note 5)</p> <p>12. One (1) radar reflector</p> <p>(See Note 6)</p>	<p>13. One (1) 10BC fire extinguisher at all of the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at each access to any space where a fuelburning cooking, heating - or refrigerating appliance is fitted; - at the entrance to any accommodation space; and - at the entrance to the machinery space. <p>14. One (1) axe</p> <p>15. Two (2) buckets of at least 10 L each</p>
Sail and Power Boats over 24 m (78'9")	<p>1. One (1) lifejacket or PFD for each person on board</p> <p>2. One (1) reboarding device</p> <p>(See Note 1)</p> <p>3. One (1) buoyant heaving line at least 30 m (98'5") long</p> <p>4. Two (2) SOLAS lifebuoys, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one (1) is attached to a buoyant line at least 30 m (98'5") long; and - one (1) is equipped with a self-igniting light. <p>5. Lifting harness with appropriate rigging</p>	<p>6. One (1) watertight flashlight</p> <p>7. Twelve (12) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than six (6) of which are Type D</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Six (6) flares of Type A, B, C or D, not more than three (3) of which are Type D, if boat is equipped with an electronic communication device</p> <p>(See Note 2)</p>	<p>8. One (1) anchor and at least 50 m (164'1") of cable, rope or chain in any combination</p> <p>9. Bilge-pumping arrangements</p>	<p>10. Two (2) soundsignalling appliances that meets the applicable standards set out in the Collision Regulations</p> <p>11. Navigation lights</p> <p>(See Note 4)</p> <p>12. One (1) magnetic compass that meets the requirements set out in the Navigation Safety Regulations</p> <p>(See Note 5)</p> <p>13. One (1) radar reflector</p> <p>(See Note 6)</p>	<p>14. One (1) 10BC fire extinguisher at all of the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - at each access to any space where a fuelburning cooking, heating - or refrigerating appliance is fitted; - at the entrance to any accommodation space; and - at the entrance to the machinery space. <p>15. One (1) power-driven fire pump located outside the machinery space, with one fire hose and nozzle that can direct water into any part of the boat</p> <p>16. Two (2) axes</p> <p>17. Four (4) buckets of at least 10 L each</p>

Note 1 – Reboarding Device

A reboarding device is only required if the vertical height that a person must climb to reboard the boat from the water (freeboard) is over 0.5 m (1'8").

Note 2 – Flares

Flares are not required for a boat that:

- is operating on a river, canal or lake in which it can never be more than one (1) nautical mile (1.852 km) from shore; or has no sleeping quarters and is engaged in an official competition or in final preparation for an official competition.

For a pleasure craft more than 6 m in length, the number of pyrotechnic distress signals are reduced, if the boat is equipped with an electronic communication device, including:

- a means of two-way radio communication (e.g. cell phones, satellite phones or other satellite communication devices, VHF radios with digital select calling);
- a 406 MHz personal locator beacon, which is a personal safety device designed to alert search and rescue services and allow them to quickly locate a person in the event of an emergency; or
- a 406 MHz emergency position-indicating radio beacon, which is used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency via a satellite.

Note 3 – Bailer and Manual Bilge Pump

A bailer or manual bilge pump is not required for a boat that cannot hold enough water to make it capsize or a boat that has watertight compartments that are sealed and not readily accessible.

Note 4 – Navigation Lights

Navigation lights are only required if you operate the boat after sunset, before sunrise or in periods of restricted visibility (fog, falling snow, etc.).

Note 5 – Magnetic Compass

A magnetic compass is not required if the boat is 8 m (26'3") or less and you operate it within sight of navigation marks.

Note 6 – Radar Reflector

Radar reflectors are required for boats under 20 m (65'7") and boats built of mostly non-metallic materials. A radar reflector is not required if:

- the boat is used in limited traffic conditions, daylight and favourable environmental conditions, and where having a radar reflector is not essential to the boat's safety; or
- the small size of the boat or its operation away from radar navigation makes it impossible to install or use a radar reflector.

REMEMBER: Boating laws change from time to time, so make sure you have the most current information. If the *SAFE BOATING GUIDE* differs from the regulations, remember that it is always the current regulatory text that applies. To learn more about regulations, use the direct links in the CONTACT INFORMATION AND REFERENCES section of this guide.