

BOATING SAFETY



**get
certified.**

BOATERS BORN AFTER JUNE 30, 1996,
MUST HAVE A BOATER EDUCATION
CARD (BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE).

THOSE BORN AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1978
ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A BOATER
EDUCATION CARD TO OPERATE A PWC
(PERSONAL WATER CRAFT).

TAKE AND PASSED AN ONLINE COURSE
TO GET YOUR CERTIFICATE
[HTTPS://WWW.BOAT-ED.COM/MICHIGAN/](https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/)

PFD: PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE

86%* OF PEOPLE WHO DROWNED IN A RECREATIONAL BOATING ACCIDENT WERE NOT WEARING A LIFE JACKET

wear a life jacket.



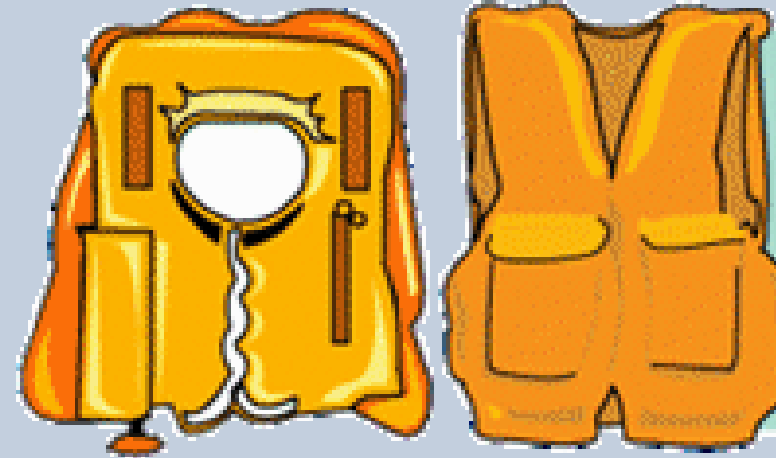
TYPE I

Off-shore life jacket—over 20 pounds of buoyancy, designed to turn an unconscious person face-up.



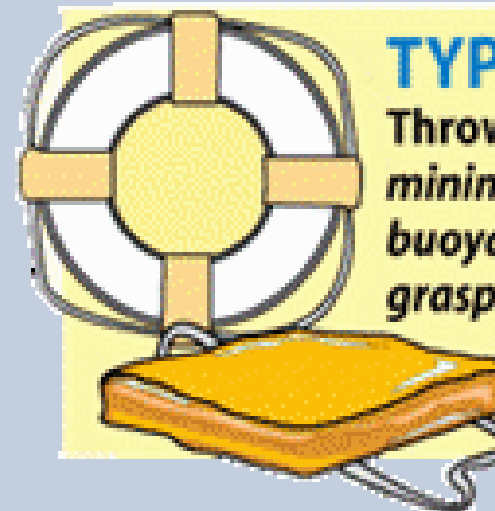
TYPE II

Near-shore buoyant vest—minimum 15.5 pounds of buoyancy, designed to turn an unconscious person face-up.



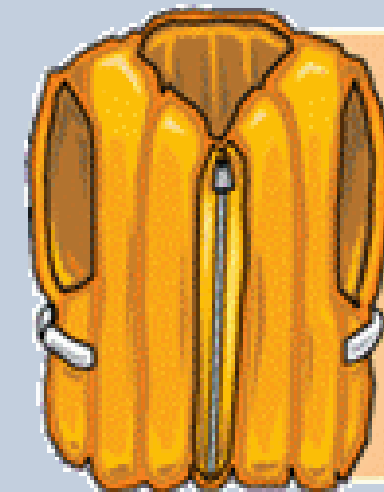
TYPE III

Flotation aid—minimum 15.5 pounds of buoyancy, not designed to turn an unconscious person face-up; more comfortable for water sports.



TYPE IV

Throwable device—minimum 16.5 pounds of buoyancy, designed to be grasped, not worn.



TYPE V

Special-use device—must be used in accordance with any requirements on the approval label.

*Data source: 2020 U.S. Coast Guard Recreational Boating Statistics

**wear a
life jacket.**

ALL VESSELS MUST HAVE A PFD FOR EACH PERSON ABOARD,

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 MUST WEAR A TYPE I OR II PFD WHILE RIDING ON A VESSEL.

EACH PERSON RIDING A PWC (EX: JET SKI), MUST BE WEARING A TYPE I, II, OR III PFD.

EACH PERSON BEING TOWED BY A VESSEL MUST BE WEARING AN APPROVED PFD.

ALL PFDS MUST BE IN GOOD AND SERVICEABLE CONDITION AND MUST BE READILY ACCESSIBLE

**be
prepared.**

EQUIP VESSELS WITH A FIRST AID KIT, AN ANCHOR, AND A CELL PHONE OR MARINE RADIO

HAVE A FLOAT PLAN. ENSURE SOMEONE ON SHORE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE GOING AND FOR HOW LONG.

ENSURE ALL NAVIGATION LIGHTS ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.

KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AT ALL TIMES WHEN ON THE WATER. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, 911 OPERATORS WILL NEED TO KNOW *WHERE* YOU ARE RIGHT AWAY.

**don't drink
and boat.**

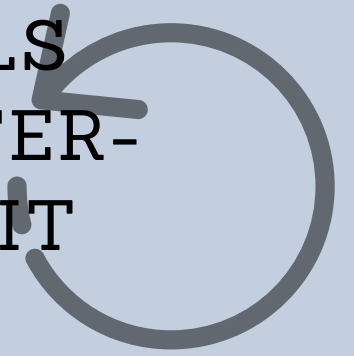
THE SAME LAWS APPLY FOR
BOATING AS FOR OPERATING A
VEHICLE. THE LEGAL LIMIT FOR
OPERATING A VESSEL IS .08.

VIOLATION OF THIS COULD RESULT
IN A MISDEMEANOR CHARGE.

THE MICHIGAN IMPLIED CONSENT
LAW APPLIES FOR BOAT OPERATOR
INTOXICATION TESTING

operating basics.

PERSONS OPERATING VESSELS SHALL OPERATE IN A COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FASHION WHEN IT REASONABLY POSSIBLE.



SAILBOATS HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO MOTORBOATS WHILE THEY ARE UNDER SAIL POWER.

MOTORBOATS SHALL GIVE WAY TO NON-MOTORIZED VESSELS.

WHEN TWO VESSELS ARE APPROACHING EACH OTHER HEAD-ON, OR NEARLY SO, THE OPERATOR OF EACH SHALL CAUSE HIS VESSEL TO PASS ON THE PORT (LEFT) SIDE OF THE OTHER

operating basics.

WHEN TWO VESSELS ARE APPROACHING EACH OTHER AT RIGHT ANGLES OR OBLIQUELY SO AS TO INVOLVE RISK OF COLLISION, THE OPERATOR OF THE VESSEL WHICH HAS THE OTHER ON HIS OWN PORT (LEFT) SIDE SHALL HOLD HIS COURSE AND SPEED, AND THE OPERATOR OF THE VESSEL WHICH HAS THE OTHER ON HIS OWN STARBOARD (RIGHT) SIDE SHALL GIVE WAY TO THE OTHER BY DIRECTING HIS COURSE TO STARBOARD SO AS TO CROSS THE STERN OF THE OTHER VESSEL OR, IF NECESSARY TO DO SO, SHALL SLACKEN HIS SPEED, STOP OR REVERSE.

speed laws.

SLOW – NO WAKE SPEED WITHIN 100 FEET OF THE SHORELINE, ANY WATERCRAFT, PIER, PERSON, RAFT, SWIMMING AREA, AND SWIMMERS, WITH SPECIAL LOCAL EXCEPTIONS.

MAXIMUM SPEED 55 M.P.H. IN ALL WATER UNLESS OTHERWISE REGULATED.

A PERSON OPERATING A VESSEL SHALL OPERATE IT IN A CAREFUL AND PRUDENT MANNER AND AT SUCH A RATE OF SPEED SO AS NOT TO UNREASONABLY ENDANGER THE LIFE OR PROPERTY OF ANY PERSON.

tow laws.

NO WATER SKIING BETWEEN ONE HOUR AFTER SUNSET AND ONE HOUR PRIOR TO SUNRISE.

AT LEAST ONE COMPETENT PERSON, IN ADDITION TO THE DRIVER, SHALL BE IN ANY BOAT TOWING PERSONS ON WATER SKIS, SLEDS, ETC. THIS ADDITIONAL PERSON SHALL BE IN A POSITION TO OBSERVE THE PROGRESS OF THE PERSON BEING TOWED.

THE TOW BOAT MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A 170 DEGREE WIDE ANGLE REAR VIEW MIRROR AFFIXED TO PERMIT THE DRIVER TO OBSERVE THE PROGRESS OF THE PERSON BEING TOWED.

