

BOATING EDUCATION LAW --- EFFECTIVE DATE JANUARY 1, 2002

1. WHO NEEDS IT?

- A. Effective January 1, 2002, no person under 17 years of age may operate a power boat with an engine in excess of 15 horsepower on the public waters of New Hampshire without a valid safe boating education certificate. The new law will be phased in over seven years with compliance for all boaters in 2008.
- B. A boat operator under 17 years of age who does not have a safe boating education certificate may operate a power boat with a motor larger than 15 horsepower ONLY if accompanied by a person 18 years of age or over who has a valid safe boater education certificate.
- C. A person who is licensed by the State of New Hampshire or the United States Coast Guard to operate a commercial vessel will not have to take the safe boater education course. They will be exempt from the requirements of the new law.
- D. Any person who holds a certificate from any state that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Boating Education Law shall be exempt. New Hampshire will accept proof of certification from another state.

2. WHO WILL GET A CERTIFICATE?

Boating Safety Certificates shall be issued to:

- A. Persons who pass a Commissioner/National Association of Boating Law Administrator's boater education course with a grade of 70% or higher.
- B. Persons who pass a safe boater equivalency exam with a grade of 80% or higher. This certificate will only be acceptable on New Hampshire public waters.
- C. Visitors who pass a "temporary" safe boater examination. It shall be valid for up to 14 days and shall entitle the holder only to operate on New Hampshire public waters. Procedures for this are not yet in place.

3. CURRENT BOATER SAFETY COURSE

The Department of Safety, US Power Squadrons, US Coast Guard Auxiliary and Boatwise, among others, all offer NASBLA (National Association of Boating Law Administrators) approved courses in various locations throughout the State at various times through the year. Some course requires a fee. Additionally, these courses are available in all 50 states. Completion of one of these courses prior to the effective date of the new law may also satisfy the requirements of that law.

4. WHO TEACHES THE COURSES

Presently, all the above mentioned organizations train their own instructors. The New Hampshire Department of Safety utilizes Marine Patrol Officers, Auxiliarists and former officers as instructors. As the program expands, recruiting and training will take place for other individuals interested in teaching this course.

5. REQUIRED TO CARRY

When the new law goes into effect, a wallet-size certification card will be issued to those individuals who are certified. Details as to materials used, information contained thereon have not been determined yet.

6. LIFE OF CERTIFICATION

This certification process is a one-time certification, good for life, and does not need to be renewed.

7. PHASE IN PERIOD

Born After:	Certificate Required
January 1, 1983	January 1, 2002
January 1, 1977	January 1, 2003
January 1, 1973	January 1, 2004
January 1, 1967	January 1, 2005
January 1, 1963	January 1, 2006
January 1, 1957	January 1, 2007
All others	January 1, 2008