

Canadian Coast Guard

Age-horsepower Restrictions

Age-horsepower restrictions prohibit operators under the age of 16 years from operating craft above specified horsepower limits. This applies to the operation of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes. If an operator is accompanied and directly supervised in the pleasure craft by a person 16 years and older, the age-horsepower restrictions do not apply. These restrictions also prohibit persons under 16 years from operating personal watercraft regardless of whether they are accompanied by an adult.

The table summarizes how these restrictions apply.

Age-horsepower Restrictions

| How this applies to operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes | Power restrictions |
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| Under 12 years of age, and not directly supervised** | Can operate a vessel with no more than 10 hp (7.5 KW) |
| Between 12 years and under 16 years of age, and not directly supervised** | Can operate a vessel with no more than 40 hp (30 KW) |
| Under 16 years of age | Not allowed to operate a PWC*** |
| 16 years of age and over | No power restrictions |

* These requirements apply in areas outside the Northwest and Nunavut Territories at this time.

** Directly supervised means: accompanied and directly supervised by a person 16 years of age or older.

***Personal Watercraft

NOTE: These restrictions are made under the Boating Restriction Regulations and are not affected nor superseded by the Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations. The Boating Restriction Regulations and the Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations are entirely separate regulations and their respective requirements should be looked at separately in order to avoid any confusion.