

Canadian Coast Guard

Operator Competency Requirements

The **Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations** require operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes to have proof of competency on board at all times. These requirements are being phased in over ten years (see table).

| How this applies to operators** of pleasure craft fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes | Date at which proof of competency required on board |
|--|---|
| All operators born after April 1, 1983 | September 15, 1999 |
| All operators of craft under 4 m in length, including personal watercraft | September 15, 2002 |
| All operators | September 15, 2009 |

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

** Applies to non-residents of Canada and whose pleasure craft is in Canada more than 45 consecutive days. Operator card or equivalent issued to a non-resident by their state or country will be considered as proof of competency.

TIP: Certificates for boating safety courses completed before April 1, 1999 will be recognized. If you've already taken a course prior to these regulations - and have proof - then that course certificate or card will be accepted as proof of competency!

Proof of competency can take 1 of 3 forms:

- proof of having successfully completed a boating safety course in Canada prior to April 1, 1999;
- a pleasure craft operator card issued following the successful completion of
- a Canadian Coast Guard accredited test;
a completed rental-boat safety checklist (for power-driven rental boats).
- The operator card is good-for-life. Boaters can obtain their card after receiving a mark of at least 75% on a Canadian Coast Guard accredited test. Boaters have the option of taking this test without first completing a course.

For a list of organizations that have accredited boating safety courses and tests, please see the [list of accredited course providers](#) , please note that these are the head offices, or call the Boating Safety Infoline at 1-800-267-6687 to obtain a hard-copy of the list.