

January 24, 2014

Canadian Boat Operator Competency Requirements for U.S. Residents

Prepared by the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources - Boat & Water Safety Section
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If you are going to Canada and will be operating a motorboat, there are some operator competency (boater education) requirements that became effective September 15, 2009. These rules now affect all non-residents, as well as all Canadians, who operate boats with a motor attached. Please click on the web link to the "Canadian Visitor Information for Boaters" at the end of this e-mail. It will give you the latest detailed information on all operational and safety equipment requirements for visitors to Canada who will be boating.

Here is a quick summary of what you need to know:

IF YOU ARE BRINGING YOUR OWN MOTORBOAT FROM THE U.S. INTO CANADA - The competency certificate regulations do not apply to non-residents who operate their U.S. registered or documented pleasure craft in Canadian waters for less than 45 consecutive days. You must carry proof of U.S. residency, and your state watercraft registration card or U.S. Coast Guard documentation certificate with you at all times when you are on the water.

IF YOU ARE USING A MOTORBOAT REGISTERED IN CANADA - EVEN IF YOU OWN IT

There are several options for you:

- 1) You may get the Canadian boating safety competency card. Check the following website for course information: tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-paperwork-paperwork_operator-360.htm
- 2) You may take your own state's boating safety course and carry a state-issued card. Minnesotans can obtain a Minnesota watercraft operator's permit (required in Minnesota for 12-17 years old) by taking one of the following courses:
 - a. The on-line "Boat Minnesota" course (\$22.50 test fee) at boat-ed.com/mn/ *This site allows you to print out a temporary certificate on-line.*
 - b. The DNR's home-study course (free) call 651-259-5400 or toll free 1-888-646-6367 or e-mail boatandwater.dnr@state.mn.us.
 - c. An approved U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons' public boating safety course. Obtain a DNR Comparable Course form from the instructor upon completion and send it into DNR for a Minnesota watercraft operator's permit (required in Minnesota for 12-17 years old).
- 3) If you are renting a boat in Canada, the rental agent can give you a boat rental safety check list that you need to carry on board.

There are other restrictions on age of operation for certain types of craft and motor size noted on the web site listed below.

CANADIA BOATING SAFETY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Web Site: tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-contactus-menu-2982.htm

E-Mail: obs-bsn@tc.gc.ca

Phone: 1-800-267-6687

Fax: 1-613-991-4818