



ADVICE TO CONSUMERS OF RECREATIONAL CRAFT AND PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Since June 1998 all recreational craft new to the European Economic Area (EEA) must meet the requirements of European Communities (Recreational Craft) Regulations, 1998, which implement the EU Recreational Craft Directive (RCD). The Directive's application is tasked to the Maritime Safety Directorate.

In 2004 the European Communities (Recreational Craft) Regulations, 1998, were amended by the European Communities (Recreational Craft) (Amendment) Regulations 2004. The main purpose of this amendment is to include harmonised provisions on exhaust gas and noise emissions from engines. Personal Watercraft (Jet Skis) are covered by the Directive from January 1st 2006.

The Directives are beneficial for consumers, as they require craft to meet essential safety, health, environmental protection and consumer protection requirements

The Directive applies to:

- All new recreational craft between 2.5m – 24m in length, regardless of their means of propulsion that have been placed on the EEA market after 16 June 1998.
- All recreational craft manufactured in third countries placed, for the first time, on the EEA market from third countries after 16 June 1998.
- All new personal watercraft of less than 4m in length that have been placed on the EEA market as from 1 January 2006.
- All personal watercraft manufactured in third countries placed, for the first time, on the EEA market from third countries as from 1 January 2006.

A boat owner who has bought a new boat or a used boat in a third country and returns the boat by whatever means to the EEA territory and places that boat into service, for the first time in the EEA, will be subject to the requirements of the Directive.

Anyone considering buying

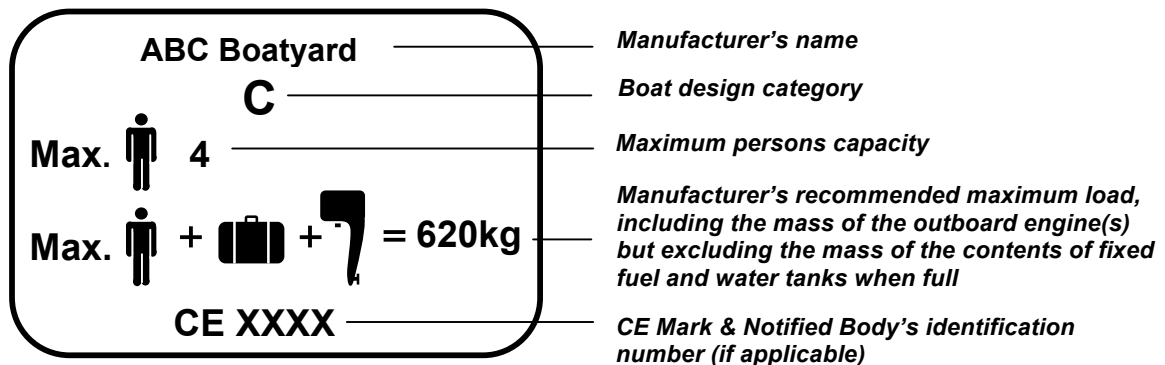
- Recreational craft
- Partly completed boat
- Personal watercraft (PWC)

should ensure that the boat/PWC comes equipped with the following five items:

1. Builder's plate
2. CE mark
3. Craft identification number
4. Owner's manual
5. Declaration(s) of conformity

1 & 2 BUILDER'S PLATE & CE MARK

Every new boat sold or first used in the EU since 16 June 1998 must have a builder's plate. This plate has the maker's details and technical information such as the design category, maximum loading weight and engine power. It must also have the CE mark.



The Four Boat Design Categories are as follows:

- A. 'OCEAN' - Designed for extended voyages where conditions may exceed wind force 8 (Beaufort scale) and significant wave heights of 4 m and above, but excluding abnormal conditions, and vessels largely self-sufficient.
- B. 'OFFSHORE' - Designed for offshore voyages where conditions up to, and including, wind force 8 and significant wave heights up to, and including, 4 m may be experienced.
- C. 'INSHORE' - Designed for voyages in coastal waters, large bays, estuaries, lakes and rivers where conditions up to, and including, wind force 6 and significant wave heights up to, and including, 2 m may be experienced.
- D. 'SHELTERED WATERS' - Designed for voyages on sheltered coastal waters, small bays, small lakes, rivers, and canals when conditions up to, and including, wind force 4 and significant wave heights up to, and including, 0.3m may be experienced, with occasional waves of 0.5m maximum height, for example from passing vessels.

Boats in each Category must be designed and constructed to withstand these parameters in respect of stability, buoyancy, and other relevant essential requirements.

3 CRAFT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (CIN)

The Craft Identification Number or CIN is unique to each craft. It is a code that identifies the manufacturer, country of manufacture, and date of construction. The CIN is located on or near the starboard of the transom near the top and must be permanently attached.

The CIN contains the following information:

"IE ABC 12345 D 3 01"

IE	Country where boat was built (Ireland)
ABC	Manufacturer's/Notified Body Identity Code
12345	Serial Number
D	Month of Manufacture (A= January, B= February etc.)
3	Year of Manufacture (2003)
01	Model year (2001)

4 OWNER'S MANUAL

Every new craft must have an owner's manual. It contains the instructions and information essential to the safe use and maintenance of the craft. It should also contain all the instructions and manuals for any equipment fitted.

5 DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

Attached to the owner's manual is a document called the Declaration of Conformity. This is a legal document signed by the manufacturer, or his authorized agent, stating that the craft meets all the requirements. This is an important document, particularly if the craft is to be used or taken into other Member States as enforcement officials can ask to see it.

Craft excluded from the Directive

The following craft are excluded:

- Craft intended solely for racing
- Canoes and kayaks, gondolas and pedalos
- Sailboards, sailing surfboards and powered surfboards
- Submersibles, aircushion vehicles and hydrofoils
- Original, and individual replicas of historical craft designed before 1950 and built predominantly from original materials
- Experimental craft provided they are not subsequently placed on the Community market
- Craft built for own use, provided they are not subsequently placed on the Community market within five years of being put into service
- Craft specifically intended to be crewed and to carry passengers for commercial purposes

**PLEASE NOTE THIS ADVICE IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE BASIC GUIDANCE.
IT IS NOT A COMPLETE AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF THE LAW.**

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