

Small Craft Safety Standard (Antigua and Barbuda)

Craft up to 5 metres in length

PWCs (jet skis)

- Every person on a personal watercraft (PWC) is required to wear a personal floatation device (PFD)/lifejacket at all times when onboard, or being towed in any manner by a PWC. Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant. PFD/lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour.
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m in length
- Three distress flares in a watertight container, combination of orange smoke and red flare and waterproof torch/light
- One fire extinguisher
- PWC to be equipped with lanyard/kill cord for attachment to operator's body, clothing or PFD/lifejacket.

PWCs should operate at all times near shore and within navigation marks/buoyed channels and/or controlled designated areas, as applicable and during daylight hours only.

Do not operate a PWC under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Age restriction on person operating PWCs is must be 16 years of age or older.

If engaged in towing a float with a suitable PWC, it is essential to carry an observer.

A high incidence of accidents with PWCs involve collisions and when manoeuvring at speed (including freestyling and wave/wake jumping) a safe distance should be kept from other PWCs, vessels underway or at anchor, or persons in the water.

Canoes, Kayaks, Paddleboats, Paddleboards, Windsurf/Sailboards, Kiteboards, Sailing Boats

- One PFD/lifejacket to be worn at all times for every person on board. Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant. PFD/ lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour.

Operations during daylight hours only and near shore in controlled designated areas

Sail craft

- One PFD/lifejacket to be worn at all times for every person on board an open craft. Lifejacket or PFD should be inherently buoyant. PFD/lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m length (not required if rescue boat is available)
- One paddle, or similar manual propelling device (not required if rescue boat is available)
- If craft can hold enough water to cause capsize, then bailer or manual bilge pump required
- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness

Power craft

- One PFD/lifejacket to be worn at all times for every person on board an open craft. PFD/lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m length
- Three distress flares in a watertight container, combination of orange smoke and red flare and waterproof torch/light
- One paddle, or similar manual propelling device
- If craft can hold enough water to cause capsize, then bailer or manual bilge pump required
- One fire extinguisher
- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness

Note for tenders that do short transfer operations then PFDs, waterproof torch/light and means of communication is sufficient.

Sail and power craft of over 5 metres in length up to 13.7 metres (45 feet) in length

- One PFD/lifejacket for every person on board and on an open craft it is recommended that they are worn at all times. Lifejacket or PFD should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- One lifebuoy attached to a buoyant line at least 15m in length
- If craft is equipped with a motor, then one waterproof torch/light and six distress flares in a watertight container
- One paddle, or similar manual propelling device
- If craft can hold enough water to cause capsize, then bailer or manual bilge pump required
- One fire extinguisher required if equipped with a motor and one fire extinguisher if equipped with fuel burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance
- First aid kit
- A reboarding device is required if the vertical height that a person must climb to reboard the craft from the water (freeboard) is over 0.5 metres
- One sound signaling appliance
- One magnetic compass
- One marine VHF radio installation
- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness

Sail and power craft of over 13.7 metres (45 feet) in length up to 24 metres in length

- One PFD/lifejacket for every person on board. PFD/ lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention and be in a high visibility colour. A light is required if also operated during hours of darkness
- Two lifebuoys, one with a buoyant line at least 15m in length and one with a self-igniting light attached, if craft is operated during hours of darkness
- One waterproof torch/light and six hand-held distress flares, two rocket parachute flares and two buoyant smoke signals in a watertight container
- Bilge pumping arrangement required
- One fire extinguisher at entrance to accommodation space, one fire extinguisher at entrance to machinery space and one fire extinguisher if equipped with fuel burning cooking, heating or refrigerating appliance
- First aid kit
- Fire bucket
- A reboarding device is required if the vertical height that a person must climb to reboard the craft from the water (freeboard) is over 0.5 metres
- One anchor and at least 50 metres of cable, rope or chain in any combination
- Fixed magnetic compass
- Sound signaling appliances
- One marine VHF radio installation
- Navigation lights are required if craft is operated during hours of darkness