

LIGHTS

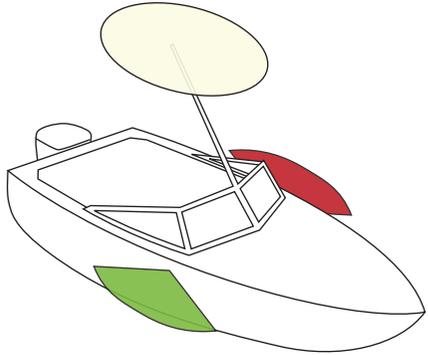
All vessels must switch on their lights between sunset and sunrise and in rain or fog.

Powerboats less than 12m

Must display:

- red and green side lights; and*
- either stern and masthead lights or one all round white light.

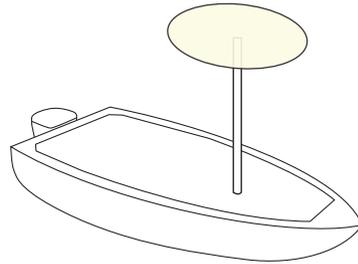
* Powerboats less than 7m with a maximum speed of 7 knots do not need to display red and green side lights.



Non-powered boats less than 7m

Must either:

- display a white light visible for 2 nautical miles; or
- carry a wide lens torch which can be displayed in sufficient time to signal another vessel to prevent collision.



BOAT NAMING RULES

Powerboats 4m and over, and non-powered boats 6m and over, must display a name on both sides of the hull. You must display a name:

- Above the waterline.
- Clearly marked with a minimum of two letters or numbers.
- All characters must be at least 90mm.
- Be clearly visible at a distance of no less than 50m.
- Displayed on both sides of the hull.

Smaller vessels that do not fit the above criteria must be marked with emergency contact details including a name and number.

PERSONAL WATER CRAFT REGISTRATION

All personal water craft operating in the Waikato region must be registered.

MINIMUM AGE FOR OPERATING A VESSEL

You must be 15 years or older to operate a vessel capable of going faster than 10 knots.

SWIMMING/DIVING AROUND WHARVES, RAMPS

Avoid swimming, playing or diving in a boat channel, off a commercial wharf or jetty, and within 200m of a hydro dam structure.

ACCIDENTS

If you have an accident you must notify Maritime New Zealand at www.maritimenz.govt.nz and the harbourmaster on freephone 0800 800 401 immediately.



Key rules for BOATING IN THE WAIKATO

0800 800 401
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/navbylaw

Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

Key rules for boating in the Waikato

Safety is the skipper's first priority, no matter how big or small the boat. Every skipper is responsible for the safety of those on board. That means knowing the rules and managing the risks of being on the water.

This booklet summarises the key rules from the Waikato Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2013.

To view a full version of the bylaw, please visit waikatoregion.govt.nz/navbylaw or contact us on 0800 800 401.

COLLISION PREVENTION RULES

Overtaking boats

All boats overtaking from astern are responsible for keeping clear until well past the vessel being overtaken. Assume that the boat in front is not aware of your presence or intention.



Head on situations

Powerboats meeting head on must each alter course to starboard and pass port side (left side) of the other.



Crossing situations

When the boats converge an angle, the boat having the other to starboard (right) gives way. As on the road, give way to your right.



- Keep to the right of all channels and the river.
- Give way boats should cross behind.
- Always make a bold alteration as early as possible.
- Keep 50m apart and 200m from shore if speed is over 5 knots.
- Sailboats have different rules.

LIFEJACKETS

Vessels 6m or less

Lifejackets must be worn while vessel is underway. The lifejacket must fit correctly and be well fastened.

Vessels greater than 6m

Correctly fitting lifejackets must be carried in a readily accessible location for each person aboard.

Lifejackets must be worn in situations of high risk including:

- 200m either side of a bar
- rough weather or sea conditions
- boating at night
- in an emergency.

SPEED

Coastal and harbour waters

Your boat must not exceed 5 knots within:

- 50m of another vessel or person in the water
- 200m of the shore, structure, or a diver's flag.

Inland waters (rivers and lakes)

Your boat must not exceed 5 knots within:

- 50m of another vessel or person in the water or a structure
- 30m of the shore.

WAKE OF VESSELS

Your vessel's wake must not cause unnecessary danger or risk to swimmers, other vessels, or structures.

RIVER SAFETY RULES

- Keep starboard/right of the river
- Give way to vessels coming downstream
- Do not operate within 200m of a hydro dam, structure.

CARRY COMMUNICATIONS

You must carry at least one form of usable and waterproof communication. If you're carrying a cellphone, put it in a dry bag and ensure that it will have reception throughout your entire trip.

If you're carrying a VHF radio make sure you complete a course with Coastguard Boating Education (www.boatingeducation.org.nz).

BOAT RAMPS

You must not use engines to power on or off a boat trailer at any boat ramp.

TOWING

- If you are towing you must have an observer 10 years or older on board
- The person being towed must wear a lifejacket
- No towing between sunset and sunrise.

TOWING ACCESS LANES

You must keep to the right or the starboard side of an access lane at all times.

Heading out on the water?

Take a mate,
MARINEMATE

