

NEW JERSEY OPERATOR AGE & EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

New Jersey Approved Boating Safety Education Course

In New Jersey, all persons operating a Personal Watercraft (PWC) must have proof of passing an approved boating safety education course. In addition, any powerboat operator born in 1969 or later must also show proof of passing an approved boating safety course or have a New Jersey issued boating safety certificate.

Phase-in Period

As of June 1, 2007 – all power vessel operators born in 1959 and later must possess a certificate; as of June 1, 2008, all power vessel operators born in 1949 and later; and by June 1, 2009 all power vessel operators must possess an approved boating safety education course certificate.

Age Restrictions

Persons taking a boating safety course may be 10 years of age or older but must wait until they are at least 13 to obtain their New Jersey boating certificate. All operators must wait until age 13 to operate any power vessel.

- Children under the age of 13 cannot operate a power vessel.
- Children between the ages of 13 and 15 may operate only the following power vessels if they have proof of successful completion of an approved boating safety education course:
 - a power vessel with a electric motor, or
 - a power vessel larger than 12 feet with less than 10 total horsepower.

Persons who are at least 16 years of age and older must show proof of passing an approved boating safety course or have a New Jersey issue boating safety certificate to legally operate all other power vessels, including PWC.

Exceptions

An operator does not need to possess the NJ boating certificate if:

- the person is an out-of-state resident **who is at least 16 years of age** and has written proof of successful completion of a course substantially similar to the New Jersey Boating Safety Course, or a state boating safety certificate issued by that person's home state. Any person operating a boat in NJ for more than 90-days must have an approved New Jersey boating safety certificate.
- A person holding a United States Coast Guard operator's license may operate a power vessel on the waters of New Jersey without having completed an approved boat safety course.

Exception for rented power vessels

- A person who is 18 years of age or older may operate a rented power vessel (not a PWC) if the power vessel is being rented from a business engaged in renting power vessels, and that person has completed a State approved pre-rental instruction course provided by the owner or lessor of the power vessel prior to operation.

Non-Tidal Boat License

A New Jersey boat operator's license is required on all non-tidal waters of the State of New Jersey (lakes, reservoirs, the Delaware River north of Trenton and other waterways that are not influenced by the rise and fall of the tides).

A non-tidal boat license is separate from the boating safety certificate and is issued through the Motor Vehicle Commission. If you were born after December 31, 1968, you must show the **original approved boating safety certificate** at MVC in order to get a non-tidal boat license.

There are 4 exceptions from having a **non-tidal license**:

1. Vessel powered by a motor less than 1 HP or a 12 volt electric motor.
2. A vessel 12 feet long or longer with less than 10 HP
3. If the person is an out-of-state resident and has written proof of successful completion of a boating safety course substantially similar to a NJ approved boating safety course.
4. While competing in an authorized race pursuant to a permit issued by the Division of State Police.

Fees for power vessel operator's license, Digitized picture.

The fee for a 48-month power vessel operator's license is \$18. Each New Jersey power vessel operator's license issued shall have a digitized color picture of the licensee. In addition to the license fee, the fee for the digitized color picture shall be \$6 for each license or renewal.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO LEND OR USE AN OPERATOR'S LICENSE OR BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE ISSUED TO ANOTHER PERSON.

A person who owns or has control or custody of a power vessel and allows the power vessel to be operated on the waters of New Jersey by a person who is required to possess a certificate certifying successful completion of an approved boat safety course but who does not possess such certificate is subject to a fine.