

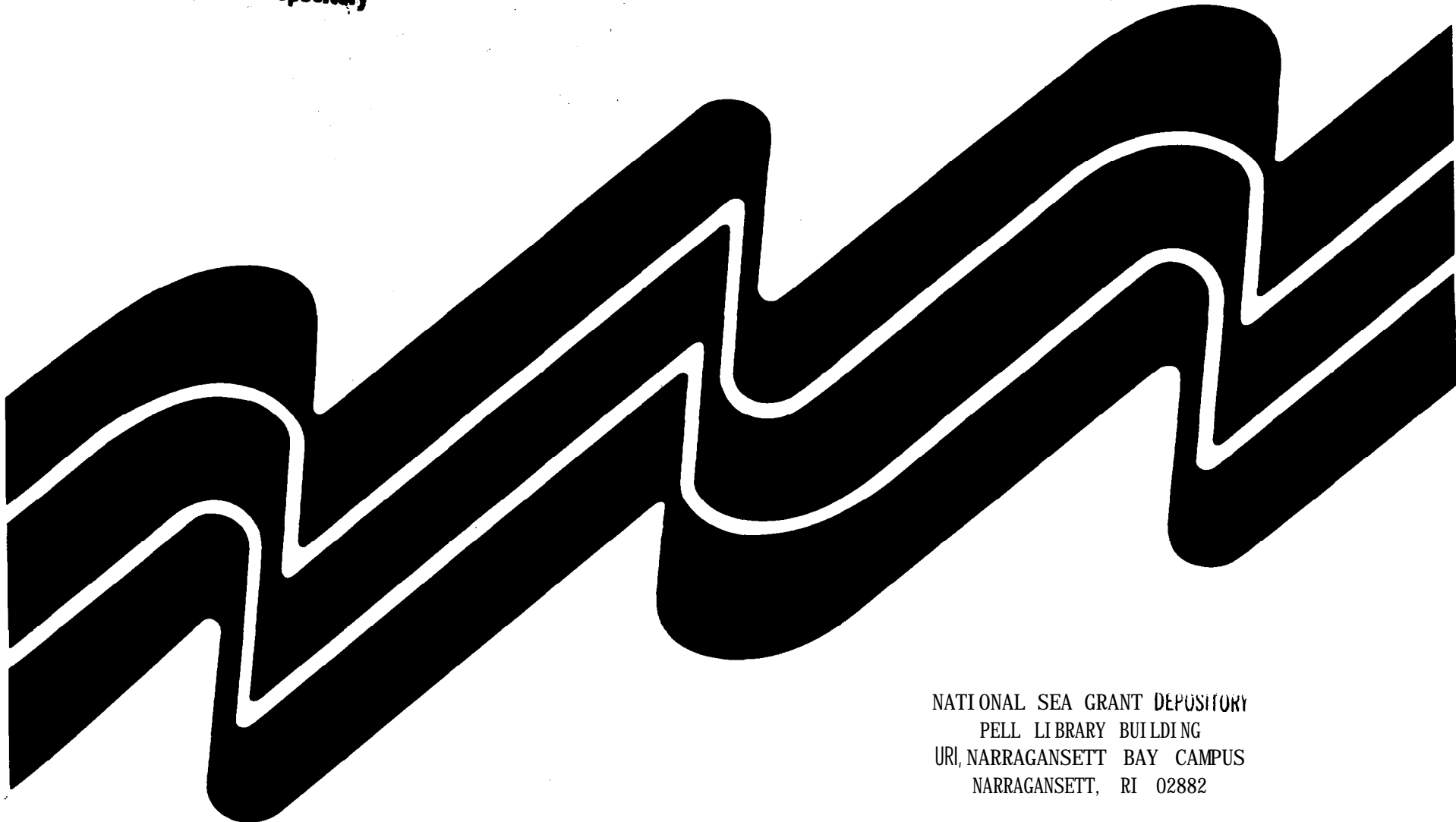
LOAN COPY ONLY



IL-IN-SG-853  
Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Illinois and Purdue University

CIRCULATING COPY  
Sea Grant Depository

# State and Federal Regulations Related to Boating on Lake Michigan



NATIONAL SEA GRANT DEPOSITORY  
PELL LIBRARY BUILDING  
URI, NARRAGANSETT BAY CAMPUS  
NARRAGANSETT, RI 02882

IL-IN-SG-85-3  
700 October 85  
COMM-NA85AADSG 0830N

Published by the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program with funding from the National Sea Grant College Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Printed in cooperation with the Michigan Sea Grant College Program and the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant College Program.

This work is a result of research sponsored by NOAA, National Sea Grant College Program, Department of Commerce, under Grant COMM-NA85AADSG 0830N. The U.S. Government is authorized to produce and distribute reprints for governmental purposes notwithstanding any copyright notation that may appear hereon.



---

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **William R. Oschwald**, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The Illinois Cooperative Extension Service provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.



IL-IN-SG-85-3

Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Illinois and Purdue University

---

# State and Federal Regulations Related to Boating on Lake Michigan

Douglas Musser and Steve Smidley

Edited by: Robin G. Goettel

Designed by: Ted Odenweller and Kathy van Melle

# Contents

Introduction . . . . .	1
State Boundaries on Lake Michigan (Figure 1) . . . . .	2
New Boating Legislation Related to Driving Under the Influence . . . . .	3
Acknowledgements . . . . .	3
I. Registration and Titling	
A. Vessels Requiring Registration and Exemptions . . . . .	4
B. How and Where to Register . . . . .	6
C. License Cost, Certification and Registration Display . . . . .	6
D. Renewal, Transfer, Replacement, Change of Address or Interest . . . . .	10
II. Equipment Requirements	
A. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) . . . . .	14
B. Fire Prevention . . . . .	14
C. Lighting Requirements . . . . .	20
D. Sound Requirements . . . . .	26
E. Motor Noise Requirements . . . . .	28
F. Sanitation Devices . . . . .	28
G. Visual Distress Signals . . . . .	28
III. Operation Requirements	
A. Weight/Person Capacity Limits . . . . .	30
B. Minimum Age of Operation . . . . .	32
C. Accident Reporting . . . . .	32
IV. Basic Rules of the Road . . . . .	34
V. References . . . . .	34
Contact Offices . . . . .	36
Appendix A	
Approved Federal Personal Flotation Device Equivalents (Table 1) . . . . .	38
Acceptable Federal Pyrotechnic Signal Devices (Table 2) . . . . .	39
Required Federal Fire Extinguisher Requirements (Table 3) . . . . .	39

## Introduction

Recreational boating has grown substantially as a leisure activity since the early 1960s. In 1983, the U.S. Coast Guard estimated that among the four states that border Lake Michigan, there were over 1.5 million registered boats.

Regulations that provide for and govern boating safety are mandated by the federal government under the auspices of the U.S. Coast Guard. In some cases the Coast Guard abdicates its regulatory powers to the individual states. In addition, individual states can enforce more stringent requirements than the Coast Guard. On Lake Michigan, regulations made by the four adjoining states, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan as well as those made by the Coast Guard, may apply.

While these four states and the Coast Guard continue to work toward standardizing boating regulations, differences still do exist. When recreational boaters cross state lines, they may find themselves in violation of a given regulation.

In order to assist recreational boaters in avoiding such difficulties, the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program has prepared this publication. It is a state-by-state description of pertinent regulations that govern recreational boating on Lake Michigan. In addition, U.S. Coast Guard regulations are presented under the column heading, Federal. The last column provides a tabulation of differences between the requirements of each state and of the U.S. Coast Guard.

The topics covered in this report include registration and titling of vessels, equipment requirements, operation requirements and basic rules of the road. Regulations governing charterboat or commercial boat operations are not included.

Users of this publication should be forewarned that regulations continue to change and evolve. This publication will most certainly require updating to reflect these changes. Where users remain uncertain about any regulations, they are urged to contact their respective regulatory agencies. A listing of regulation documents from the four states and from the federal government are provided for the user's convenience. The points of contact in each state are also included.



**Fig. 1 State Boundaries on Lake Michigan**

## **Attention:**

### **New Boating Legislation Related to Driving Under the Influence Will Soon Go Into Effect**

In the last several years we have seen a toughening of laws in this country regarding drinking and driving on our nation's highways. This has been in response to the terrible toll of death, destruction of property and disruption of life associated with alcohol-related accidents. Recently, attention has been called to the similar consequences of alcohol-related boating accidents.

A national newspaper recently reported that during 1984, in the states adjoining Lake Michigan, 682 boating accidents were reported, resulting in property damage, serious injury and 106 deaths. While it has always been explicitly against the law to drink while boating, strict enforcement procedures have been lacking.

At the time of this printing, Wisconsin and Illinois have DUI (driving under the influence) boating legislation pending. Indiana and Michigan have already passed such legislation. Specific details of this legislation are not available at this time, but all states have the following provisions in common:

- \* Implied consent
- \* Specific blood-alcohol levels
- \* Progressive penalties
- \* Suspension of privileges

We encourage each boater to become familiar with DUI legislation in their own as well as in adjoining states in which they may operate. And we urge all boaters to avoid drinking while boating in order to have a safe and enjoyable boating experience.

## **Acknowledgements**

The idea for this publication came from State and Federal Boating Regulations for the Upper Mississippi River, written by the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee (UMRCC).

The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program would like to thank the following agencies for their technical assistance:

Illinois Department of Conservation  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
United States Coast Guard

## ILLINOIS

## WISCONSIN

## INDIANA

### I. Registration and Titling

#### A. Vessels Requiring Registration and Exemptions

All motorboats and sailboats over 12 feet in length are required to be numbered in accordance with applicable Illinois state laws.

##### EXEMPTIONS

A motorboat or sailboat over 12 feet in length is exempt from numbering requirements under any of the following conditions:

1. It is covered by a number in full effect issued in compliance with federal law or federally-approved law of another state--does not apply if the vessel is in the state in excess of 60 days.
2. It is from a country other than the U.S. and is in state waters on a temporary basis.
3. Its owner is the U.S., a state or subdivision thereof, and is used solely for official purposes and is clearly identifiable.
4. It is a ship's lifeboat.
5. It belongs to a class of boats which would be subject to federal law and a federal numbering system, even though exempted from state requirements.
6. It is a motorboat competing in a previously arranged or announced race or engaged in navigation incidental to a race. Permission of local conservation officers must be obtained if motorboats are to be tested incidental to a race.

No person may operate, and no owner may give permission for the operation of any boat on the water of this state unless the boat is either issued a certificate of number or registration or is specifically exempted from either.

##### EXEMPTIONS

A boat is exempt from certificate of number requirements under any of the following conditions:

1. It is a nonmotorized boat which is not a sailboat.
2. It is a nonmotorized boat which is a sailboat, but which is 12 feet or less in length.
3. It is covered by a valid certificate of number issued under federal law or a federally-approved numbering system of another state--does not apply if the vessel is within the state in excess of 60 consecutive days or if this state is the state of principal use.
4. It is operated within 15 days after application for a certificate of number has been made and proof of application is on board.
5. It is from a country other than the U.S. and is temporarily using the waters of the state.
6. It is a military or public boat of the U.S., except recreational-type public vessels.

Every motorboat (watercraft powered by any internal combustion, steam or electrical inboard or outboard motor or engine or by any mechanical means) must be registered and numbered.

##### EXEMPTIONS

A motorboat does not have to be registered and numbered under any of the following conditions:

1. It is legally registered in another state and if the boat has not been within this state for more than 60 consecutive days.
2. Its owner is the United States, a state, or a subdivision of a state.
3. It is from a country other than the United States temporarily using the water of this state.
4. It is a ship's lifeboat.
5. It belongs to a class of boats that has been exempt from registration and numbering by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.



MICHIGAN	FEDERAL	VARIATIONS BY STATE	NOTES
<p>Motorboats of any length and any other vessel 12 feet in length or over must be registered and numbered.</p>	<p>Each of the four states bordering Lake Michigan is the sole issuing and reporting authority for vessels operating in its portion of Lake Michigan waters. Each of these states' regulations are in compliance with applicable federal requirements. There is federal documentation for vessels of 5 net tons or greater.</p>	<p>The federal government abdicates registration to the respective states except for federal vessels and those 5 tons net weight or larger.</p>	
<p><u>EXEMPTIONS</u></p>		<p>Illinois - All motorboats and sailboats over 12 feet in length.  Wisconsin - All motorboats and all sailboats greater than 12 feet in length.  Indiana - All motorboats.  Michigan - All motorboats and all other vessels 12 feet in length or greater.</p>	
<p>A motorboat does not have to be registered and numbered under any of the following conditions:</p>		<p>Each state requires registration and numbering. Illinois also requires titling. Exemptions are essentially the same for each state.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is used temporarily on the waters of this state and is from a country other than the United States.</li> <li>2. It is owned by the United States and is used in public service for purposes other than recreation.</li> <li>3. It is a vessel's lifeboat.</li> <li>4. It is an all terrain vehicle not used as a vessel.</li> </ol>		<p>Michigan requires titling for all vessels with permanently-installed engines and all vessels over 20 feet in length.</p>	
<p>A vessel 12 feet in length or over does not have to be registered and numbered under any of the following conditions:</p>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is a raft, surfboard or swim float.</li> <li>2. It is a vessel 16 feet in length or less and is propelled by hand either with oars or paddles which are not used for rental or other commercial purposes.</li> <li>3. It is a non-motorized canoe not used for rental or other commercial purposes.</li> </ol>			

## ILLINOIS

## WISCONSIN

## INDIANA

### A. Vessels Requiring Registration and Exemptions (cont'd)

Every owner of a motorboat or sailboat over 12 feet in length, required to be numbered by the state shall be required to make application for a certificate of title, if none is in effect, when applying for issuance, transfer or renewal of a certificate of number.

7. Its owner is a state or subdivision of a state, which is used principally for governmental purposes, and which is clearly identifiable.
8. It is a ship's lifeboat.
9. It is present for 10 days or less, in order to compete in a race sanctioned by municipal permit or agency of the U.S. Government.

A boat is exempt from registration requirements under any of the following conditions:

1. It is covered by a current certificate of number.
2. It is a federally-documented vessel which is a licensed commercial fishing boat, pursuant to S.S. 29.33.
3. It is a federally-documented vessel with a home port located outside the state-- does not apply if the vessel has been in the state in excess of 60 days or if this state is the state of principal use.
4. It is operated within 15 days after an application of registration has been made and proof of purchase is carried on board.

### B. How and Where to Register

Titling and numbering can be accomplished by contacting the Illinois Department of Conservation. Forms are available upon request.

Registration and/or numbering can be accomplished by contacting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Forms are available upon request.

Registration and numbering is done by the Law Enforcement Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Forms are available upon request.

### C. License Cost, Certification and Registration Display

Certificate of number period = 3 years. Certificates of number remain in effect until 15 July of the year of expiration; 1 July - 30 June.

Certificate of number period = 2 years, 1 April - 31 March.

3-year Permit period

Cost Class A (all watercraft less than 16 feet in length) - \$10.00

MICHIGAN	FEDERAL	VARIATIONS BY STATE	NOTES
<p>The owners of the vessel or motor-boat shall file an application for a number with the secretary of state. Forms are available upon request.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>By filing applicable forms at designated locations in each state.</p>	
<p>3-year Permit period Cost for motorboats less than 12 feet in length - \$7.50</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Certificate of number period: Illinois - 2 yrs; 1 July - 30 June Wisconsin - 2 yrs; 1 April - 31 March</p>	

## ILLINOIS

### C. License Cost, Certification and Registration Display (cont'd)

Costs of numbering = \$6.00. Upon receipt of the application form, fee and proof that all relevant taxes have been paid, DOC will issue a certificate of number to the boat owner. (applies only to motorboats and sailboats greater than 12 feet in length.)

#### Display of number:

The owner shall paint on or attach the identification number issued to both sides of the front of the hull in 3-inch block letters. The color shall contrast with the background and be maintained in a legible condition. The certificate of number is issued on a pocket-sized card and must be present for inspection at all times the vessel is in operation. All new, transferred, or renewed certificates of number are accompanied by registration expiration decals. These decals shall be displayed in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Department of Conservation.

## WISCONSIN

#### Display of number:

Upon receipt of the application form, fee, and proof that all sales and use taxes have been paid, a certificate of number or registration card shall be issued to the boat owner. The owner will display the boat number on both sides of the bow of the boat. The numbers will be 3-inch block type, of contrasting color, and legible. The certificate of number or registration card must be present for inspection at all times that the boat is in operation.

When issued, certificates of number or registrations are accompanied by certification stickers or registration decals. These decals or stickers will be displayed on the bow of the boat, on line with the vessel number, but 3 inches from it toward the stern. Registered documented vessels will display the validation decal on the transom on each side of the name.

## INDIANA

Class 1 (all watercraft from 16-25 feet in length) - \$12.00

Class 2 (all watercraft from 26-40 feet in length) - \$15.00

Class 3 (all watercraft over 40 feet) - \$20.00

Proof or property tax payment required.

#### Display of number:

The identifying number set forth in the certificate of registration is displayed on each side of the bow. Decals indicating the year of expiration of registration must be displayed on the right side of and within 3 inches of the registration numbers.

## MICHIGAN

## FEDERAL

## VARIATIONS BY STATE

## NOTES

Non-powered vessels 12 feet or over  
in length - \$4.50

Motorboats from 12-15 feet in  
length - \$9.00

Motorboats from 16-19 feet in  
length - \$22.50

Motorboats from 20-27 feet in  
length - \$60.00

Motorboats from 28-34 feet in  
length - \$90.00

Motorboats from 35-41 feet in  
length - \$120.00

Motorboats from 42-49 feet in  
length - \$150.00

Motorboats over 50 feet in  
length - \$240.00

Pontoon boats and motorized canoes,  
regardless of size - \$7.50

### Display of number:

The certificate of number must be  
presented for inspection upon demand  
of a law enforcement or conservation  
officer any time the vessel is in  
use. The owner shall paint on or  
attach in a permanent manner to each  
side of the forward half of the  
vessel the identification number  
assigned.

Indiana &  
Michigan - 3 yrs.

Costs of registration and numbering  
vary according to state and size and  
class of boat.

Illinois has a one-time titling  
cost - \$7.00.

### Display of number:

Display of registration and numbering  
is consistent between states and in  
accordance with federal regulations.  
Each state requires that the certifi-  
cate of number card or registration  
card be readily available for inspec-  
tion.

## ILLINOIS

## WISCONSIN

## INDIANA

### C. License Cost, Certification and Registration Display (cont'd)

#### Fees related to titling:

Certificate of title. . . \$ 7.00  
Duplicate certificate  
of title. . . . . \$ 5.00  
Corrected certificate  
of title. . . . . \$ 5.00  
Search. . . . . \$ 5.00  
Late application. . . . \$15.00

### D. Renewal, Transfer, Replacement, Change of Address or Interest

#### RENEWAL:

Renewal for the certificate of number and accompanying registration expiration decals will be accomplished in a similar manner as the initial application. Renewal should occur between January and June of the last year the certificate is current. Renewal fee is \$6.00.

#### TRANSFER: (For Certificate of Number)

Any owner of a vessel, upon sale or transfer of a portion or all of the vessel, shall notify the Department of Conservation within 15 days of the action and provide the name of the purchaser or transferee. Such notice shall be accompanied by the surrender of the certificate of number.

The purchaser or transferee of any portion or all of the vessel shall within 15 days make application for the certificate of number. The application must be accompanied by proof of payment of applicable use tax. The fee is \$2.00 for transfer

#### RENEWAL:

Renewal of the certificate of number or registration will be accomplished in a similar manner to the initial application.

Costs for issuance or renewal of certification or registration are as follows:

Boats--  
under 16 ft. . . . . \$ 6.50  
16 ft. or more but  
less than 26 ft. . . . . \$ 8.50  
26 ft. or more but  
less than 40 ft. . . . . \$10.50  
40 ft. or more . . . . . \$12.50  
non-motorized sailboats. . . \$ 6.50  
duplicate certificate of  
number card, registration  
card, decals or stickers . . \$ 2.50

#### TRANSFER:

If the owner of a vessel, covered by a valid or expired certificate of number or registration wishes to transfer all or part of the interest in the vessel, the owner will surrender the certificate of number or registration to the new owner.

Transfer of ownership of the vessel terminates the current certificate of number or registration. The new owner must apply to the Department of Natural Resources for a new certificate of number or registration within 10 days of the date of purchase. Upon receipt of the application and appropriate fee, a new

#### RENEWAL:

Registration certificate may be renewed by the owner in the same manner provided for in the initial securing of the certificate.

#### TRANSFER:

Upon transfer of ownership of any motorboat, the owner shall complete and sign the certificate of registration and deliver it to the new owner at the time of delivering the motorboat. The new owner shall file the certificate of registration, along with the proper fee, with the IDNR and a new registration certificate will be issued to the new owner.

# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

### Fees related to titling:

All vessels . . . . . \$ 5.00  
Expedited processing . . \$ 5.00

### RENEWAL:

Renewal of certificate is accomplished in the same manner as the original issue of the certificate.

### TRANSFER:

The transferee of a vessel registered under this Act, within 15 days after acquiring it, shall make application to the secretary of state for transfer to him/her of the certificate of number issued to the vessel. Transfer fee is \$2.00 plus prorated fee based upon remaining life of certificate.

Not applicable

### RENEWAL:

Renewal of registration or certificate of number is accomplished in a manner similar to initial application for each state. Renewal fees vary according to state and size and class of vessel.

### TRANSFER:

Illinois requires notification by seller within 15 days of transfer. Buyer must apply for new certificate of number within 15 days.

Wisconsin requires seller to surrender certificate to buyer. Buyer must apply within 10 days.

Michigan requires application within 15 days.

Indiana requires seller to surrender certificate and buyer to submit application.

## ILLINOIS

### D. Renewal, Transfer, Replacement, Change of Address or Interest (cont'd)

of any unexpired time on the certificate of number unless the time remaining is less than 6 months. In such a case, a fee of \$6.00 will accomplish reissuance of the certificate of number for approximately 3 years. Unless proper application is made within 30 days, operation of the vessel will be unlawful.

#### CHANGE OF INTEREST: (For Certificate of Number)

Should a vessel be destroyed or abandoned, the owner shall notify the Department of Conservation within 15 days and accompany such notice with the surrender of the certificate of title.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

The owner of a vessel shall notify the Department of Conservation in writing, within 15 days, of a change of address. Should the owner of the vessel wish the certificate of number to reflect the new address, the owner will surrender the old certificate of number plus a \$1.00 processing fee to the Department of Conservation.

#### CHANGES IN TITLING:

If a certificate of title is lost, stolen or mutilated, the first lienholder, owner or owner's legal representative shall apply immediately to the Department of Conservation for a duplicate title.

#### TRANSFER: (For Certificate of Title)

If an owner transfers his interest in a vessel other than by creation of a security interest, he shall at

## WISCONSIN

certificate of number or registration will be issued. In most cases, the number will remain the same, and new stickers or decals will not be issued.

#### CHANGE OF INTEREST:

Upon destruction or abandonment of a vessel covered by a certificate of number or registration, the owner will within 15 days notify the Department of Natural Resources and at the same time surrender the certificate of number card or registration card.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

If an owner of a vessel changes residence, the owner shall, within 15 days, notify the Department of Natural Resources of the new address.

## INDIANA

#### CHANGE OF INTEREST:

The owner of a motorboat shall furnish the IDNR notice of transfer of all or any part of his interest in a motorboat or of the destruction or abandonment of such motorboat within 15 days thereof.

#### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Notification of change of address is required within 30 days of the change.



**MICHIGAN****FEDERAL****VARIATIONS  
BY STATE****NOTES****CHANGE OF INTEREST/ADDRESS:**

The owner of a vessel shall notify the secretary of state within 15 days if the vessel is destroyed, abandoned, sold, an interest therein is transferred, either wholly or in part or if the owner's address changes.

**CHANGE OF INTEREST:**

Same for each state. Owner must notify state of change of interest within 15 days and surrender registration or certificate of number.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:**

Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan require notification within 15 days.

Indiana requires notification within 30 days.

**ILLINOIS****WISCONSIN****INDIANA****D. Renewal, Transfer,  
Replacement, Change of  
Address or Interest  
(cont'd)**

the time of delivery, execute an assignment and warranty of title to the transferee on the space provided on the certificate of title and cause it to be delivered to the transferee or the Department of Conservation.

The transferee shall within 15 days submit application to the Department of Conservation for a new certificate of title. The application will be accompanied by the current certificate of title, proof of payment of use taxes, and appropriate fee.

**CHANGE OF INTEREST:  
(For Certificate of Title)**

Upon scrapping, junking or destroying a vessel, the owner shall submit the certificate of title to the Department of Conservation.

**II. Equipment Requirements  
A. Personal Flotation  
Devices (PFD's)**

Same as Federal

When a vessel is being operated to assist waterskiers, a Type I, II, or III PFD must be on board for each waterskier.

Same as Federal

All boats shall be equipped with at least one life preserver, ring buoy, life jacket, buoyant vest or buoyant cushion, of a make or type approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, for each person on board.

**B. Fire Prevention  
1. Extinguishers**

It is unlawful to operate a motorboat anywhere in this state without at least one U.S. Coast Guard-approved fire extinguisher so placed as to be readily accessible and in such condition as to be ready for immediate and effective use.

Every motorboat, except outboards of open construction, shall be provided with the proper type, size and number of fire extinguishers to promptly and effectively extinguish

Required only on passenger boats or boats for hire.

# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

Personal flotation devices of a make or type approved by the U.S. Coast Guard are required to be carried aboard all vessels.

Type B hand portable fire extinguisher is required. Fixed fire extinguishing systems shall be of a carbon dioxide-type approved and installed as required by the U.S. Coast Guard.

For vessels less than 16 feet in length (except kayaks and canoes): Requires one Type I, II, III or IV PFD per person aboard.

For vessels 16 feet in length or greater (except kayaks and canoes): Requires one Type I, II or III PFD per person on board plus one Type IV PFD on board.

All PFD's must be in serviceable condition, carry a Coast Guard number, be immediately accessible, and fit the person for whom it is intended.

See Appendix A, Table 1.

All motorboats shall carry at least the minimum number of hand portable fire extinguishers as specified below.

Exempted from this are those motorboats less than 26 feet in length, propelled by outboard motors and not carrying passengers for hire; these

Each state's requirements are in accordance with federal regulations.

Illinois also requires an extra Type I, II or III PFD for waterskiers.

Federal law requires no extinguisher if vessel is less than 26 feet, of open construction, won't trap fuel vapors and has outboard engine.

Michigan is the same--Type B is required where applicable. See Appendix A, Table 3.

**ILLINOIS**

**WISCONSIN**

**INDIANA**

**1. Extinguishers  
(cont'd)**

burning gasoline, according to the following specifications:

less than 16 ft. . . 1 size A  
16 ft. and less  
than 25 ft. . . . 1 size A  
26 ft. and less . . . 2 size A or  
than 40 ft. . . . 1 size B  
40 ft. or over . . . 3 size A or  
1 size B and  
1 size A

	Type A (minimum)	Type B (minimum)
--	---------------------	---------------------

Foam. . . . .	1½ gal.	2½ gal.
CO <sub>2</sub> . . . . .	4 lbs.	15 lbs.
Dry Chemical. . . . .	2 lbs.	10 lbs.

# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

Fire extinguisher required under the following conditions:

1. Closed compartment under thwarts and seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored.
2. Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with flotation material.
3. Closed living spaces.
4. Closed compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stored.
5. Permanently installed fuel tanks.

need not carry such portable fire extinguishers if the construction of such motorboats will not permit the entrapment of explosive or flammable gases or vapors.

If the motorboat in question meets any of the following conditions it shall be required to carry the minimum number of hand portable fire extinguishers:

1. Closed compartment under thwarts and seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored.
2. Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with flotation material.
3. Closed living spaces.
4. Closed compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stored.
5. Permanently installed fuel tanks.

The following conditions do not, in themselves, require that fire extinguishers be carried:

- Bait wells,
- Glove compartments,
- Buoyant flotation material,
- Open slatted material or
- Ice chests.

Listed below are the minimum number of required hand-portable fire extinguishers:

No fixed system  
 under 16 ft. . . . . 1  
 16 ft. and over, but under 26 ft.. 1  
 26 ft. and over, but under 40 ft.. 2  
 40 ft. and over, but not more than 65 ft. . . . . 3

Fixed system in place:  
 under 16 ft. . . . . 0  
 16 ft. and over, but under 26 ft.. 0  
 26 ft. and over, but under 40 ft.. 1  
 40 ft. and over, but not more than 65 ft. . . . . 2

\*Hand portable fire extinguishers are B-1 in type. The B-11 type may be substituted for two B-1 types. See Appendix A, Table 3

Illinois requires an accessible, functional extinguisher on all craft.

Wisconsin requires extinguishers on all but outboards of open construction.

Indiana requires extinguishers only on passenger boats or boats for hire.

## ILLINOIS

## WISCONSIN

## INDIANA

### 2. Flame Arrestors

Carburetors on all engines of motorboats other than those propelled by a detachable outboard motor shall be fitted with or protected by a U.S. Coast Guard-approved device for arresting backfire.

Every boat equipped with an inboard motor using gasoline as a fuel shall have the carburetors of every inboard gasoline motor fitted with an efficient device for arresting backfire flames. The device shall meet the specifications prescribed by federal regulations.

On all inboard motorboats, the carburetor shall be equipped with a stock factory device, so designed and constructed as to arrest backfire and shall be of a make or type approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

### 3. Ventilation System

Except for open boats, all motorboats using fuels having a flashpoint of 110°F or less shall have at least two ventilator ducts, fitted with cowls or their equivalent for the efficient removal of explosive or flammable gases from the bilges of every engine and fuel tank compartment. There shall be at least one exhaust duct installed so as to extend from the open atmosphere to the lower portion of the bilge and at least one intake duct installed so as to extend to a point at least midway to the bilge or at least below the level of the carburetor air intake. The cowls shall be located and trimmed for maximum effectiveness and in such a manner so as to prevent displaced fumes from being recirculated.

Every boat, except open boats, using as fuel any liquid of a volatile nature, shall be provided with an efficient natural or mechanical ventilation system which is capable of removing resulting inflammable or explosive gases.

All inboard motorboats which use fuel having a flashpoint of 110°F, and the greater portion of the bilge which is not open at all times and exposed to the air, shall be equipped with at least two bilge ventilators fitted with cowls or their equivalent. They shall be designed and constructed so as to permit the safe diffusion of all inflammable or explosive gases into the air.

### 4. Battery Cover

Every motorboat equipped with storage batteries shall be provided with suitable supports and secured against shifting with the motion of the boat. Such storage batteries shall be

Same as Illinois

No requirement

MICHIGAN	FEDERAL	VARIATIONS BY STATE	NOTES
<p>Every gasoline engine installed in a motorboat after April 25, 1940, except outboard motors, shall be equipped with an acceptable means of backfire flame control.</p> <p>All motorboats, except open boats, using fuel having a flashpoint of 110°F, or less, shall have at least twin ventilator ducts, fitted with cowls or their equivalent, for the efficient removal of explosive or flammable gases from the bilges of every engine and fuel tank compartment.</p> <p>No requirement</p>	<p>All motorboats and motor vessels must be equipped with acceptable backfire flame control with the exception of outboard motors.</p> <p>All motorboats or motor vessels except open boats, the construction of which is commenced after April 25, 1940, and which use fuel having a flashpoint of 110° F or less, shall have at least two ventilator ducts, fitted with cowls or their equivalent for the efficient removal of explosive or flammable gases from the bilges of every engine and fuel tank compartment.</p> <p>There shall be at least one exhaust duct installed so as to extend from the open atmosphere to the lower portion of the bilge and at least one intake duct installed so as to extend to a point at least midway to the bilge or at least below the level of the carburetor air intake. The cowls shall be located and trimmed for maximum effectiveness and in such a manner so as to prevent displaced fumes from being recirculated.</p> <p>"Open boats," as used here, means those motorboats or motor vessels with all engine and fuel tank compartments, and other spaces to which explosive or flammable gases and vapors from these compartments may flow, open to the atmosphere and so arranged as to prevent the entrapment of such gases and vapors within the vessel.</p> <p>Manufacturer's requirement only, effective since August 1, 1977.</p>	<p>All states are the same as Federal.</p> <p>Basically the same for all states and Federal. All inboards or vessels of closed construction, using fuels of flashpoint 110°F or less, must have both intake and exhaust ducts, fitted with cowls, that will prevent the entrapment of explosive vapors.</p> <p>No requirement for Indiana or Michigan</p> <p>Illinois, Wisconsin and Federal have a manufacturer's requirement on craft built after August 1, 1977.</p>	

**ILLINOIS****WISCONSIN****INDIANA****4. Battery Cover  
(cont'd)**

equipped with non-conductive shielding means to prevent accidental shorting of battery terminals.

**C. Lighting Requirements**



# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

The following lighting requirements are as specified in International Rules:

The rules for lighting must be complied with between the hours of sunset and sunrise, between sunrise and sunset when visibility is limited and at all times when it is deemed necessary. No other lights may be exhibited at these times unless they cannot be confused with the required lighting and they do not interfere with their proper functioning.

The following definitions apply:

"Masthead light" means a white light placed over the fore and aft centerline of the vessel showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 225 degrees and so fixed as to show the light from right ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on either side of the vessel.

"Sidelights" means a green light on the starboard side and a red light on the port side, each showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 112.5 degrees and so fixed as to show the light from right ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on its respective side. In a vessel of less than 20 meters in length, the sidelights may be combined in one lantern carried on the fore and aft centerline of the vessel.

"Sternlight" means a white light placed as nearly as practicable at the stern showing an unbroken light over the arc of the horizon of 135 degrees and so fixed as to show the light 67.5 degrees from right aft on each side of the vessel.

International Rules are listed under Federal section.

**ILLINOIS****WISCONSIN****INDIANA****C. Lighting Requirements  
(cont'd)****1. Vessels underway**

All vessels under 26 feet in length must carry and display the following lights:

1. A bright, white light aft to show all around the horizon, visible up to two miles;
2. A combination light in the forepart of the boat lower than the white light aft showing green to starboard and red to port, so fixed as to throw a light from dead ahead to 2 points abaft the beam on their respective sides and visible for at least one mile.
3. Lights under international rules may be shown as an alternative to the above requirements.

Watercraft powered by muscular power, between sunset and sunrise, shall carry a flashlight or lantern, not necessarily fixed to the craft, showing a white light visible up to two miles, and shall display such light in sufficient time to avoid collision with another craft.

Every vessel 26 feet or greater in length shall carry and display such additional or alternate lights as shall be required by the U.S. Coast Guard for watercraft of equivalent length and type.

All motorboats under 26 feet long, from sunset to sunrise, shall carry and have lighted the following lamps:

1. One lamp aft showing a bright white light all around the horizon;
2. One combined lamp in the forepart of the vessel and lower than the white light aft, showing green to starboard, red to port so that each side of the lamp shows a beam from directly forward to 2 points abaft the beam on its respective side.

All motorboats between 26 feet and 40 feet, between sunset and sunrise, shall carry and have lighted the following lamps:

1. One lamp in the forepart of the boat as near the stern as practicable so constructed as to show an unbroken bright white light over an arc of the horizon of 20 points of the compass and so fixed as to throw the light from directly ahead to 2 points abaft the beam on either side;
2. One lamp aft showing a bright white light all around the horizon and higher than the white light forward; and
3. On the starboard side, one lamp showing green light, and on the port side, one lamp showing a red light, both fitted with in-board screens of sufficient height and so set to prevent these lights from being seen across the bow. Each such side lamps will show an unbroken arc of light of 10 points of the compass and shall be so fixed as to show the light from directly ahead to 2 points abaft the beam on its respective side.

Lights required between sunset and sunrise.

All motorboats and auxiliary sailboats with less than 15 horsepower motors must display a white stern light or lights visible 360°.

All motorboats and sailboats with 15 horsepower motors or larger and all sailboats over 22 feet in length must display a white stern light or lights and combination red and green bow lights.

All non-powered boats shall be equipped with a hand-portable lantern or flashlight not affixed or attached to any part of the boat and capable of throwing a white light visible for a distance of 2 miles or more. The operation of such boat shall display the light in sufficient time to avoid a collision with any other boat.

# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

Motorboats under 26 feet in length, if underway between sunset and sunrise, shall be equipped with and exhibit the following lights:

1. One white light no higher than the bow light showing all around the horizon and visible 2 miles.
2. A combination 20 point bow light forward, showing green to starboard and red to port, visible 1 mile.

Motorboats 26 to 65 feet in length, if underway between sunset and sunrise, shall be equipped with and exhibit the following lights:

1. One white light aft higher than the bow light showing all around the horizon and visible 2 miles;
2. One white light forward showing 20 points and visible 2 miles;
3. A green light to starboard showing 10 points and visible 1 mile; and
4. A red light to port showing 10 points and visible 1 mile.

"All round light" means a light showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 360 degrees.

All powerdriven vessels shall exhibit a masthead light forward, sidelights and a sternlight with the following exceptions:

A powerdriven vessel of less than 7 meters in length and whose maximum speed does not exceed 7 knots may exhibit an all round white light. Where practicable, it should exhibit sidelights.

A powerdriven vessel of less than 12 meters in length may exhibit an all round white light and sidelights.

A masthead light or all round white light on a powerdriven vessel less than 12 meters in length may be displaced from the fore and aft centerline where necessary, provided that the sidelights are combined into one light and carried as close as possible to the same fore and aft line.

A sailing vessel underway shall exhibit sidelights and a sternlight with the following exceptions:

If the vessel is less than 20 meters in length, the sidelight and sternlight may be combined and placed at or near the top of the mast.

A sailing vessel underway may also exhibit two lights, one green and one red, at or near the top of the mast, one above the other, but not in conjunction with the combination light mentioned above.

A sailing vessel of less than 7 meters shall, if practicable, exhibit lights already specified; but if not, she shall have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light which shall be exhibited in sufficient time to prevent a

For non-powered boats (except sailboats), Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin require a hand-held flashlight or lantern visible up to two miles.

For motorboats less than 26 feet in length, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan require one lamp aft showing a white light, visible up to two miles, showing all around the horizon and a combination green and red forward, visible up to one mile.

For motordriven vessels greater than 26 feet in length, Illinois is the same as Federal, while Wisconsin and Michigan require a white light aft, one white light forward, and red (port) and green (starboard) side, running lights.

Indiana requires only a white stern light for motorboats and motor-driven sailboats, if less than 15 horsepower.

If a motorboat is greater than 15 horsepower or a sailboat is longer than 22 feet, an additional red and green combination light forward is necessary.

Sailboats equipped with motors that are in use are required to display the same lights as motorboats in that class in Illinois and Wisconsin. Also, sailboats equipped with motors, not in use, less than 26 feet, require only the combination light lit and if greater than 26 feet, shall have only the running lights lit.

## ILLINOIS

### 1. Vessels underway (cont'd)

Sailboats equipped with motors and being propelled in part by them shall carry and display the same lights as required for motorboats of the same class.

Sailboats of less than 26 feet, equipped with motors but being propelled entirely with sail, between sunset and sunrise, shall have lighted the combination running light, but not the white light aft.

Sailboats 26 feet or more in length, equipped with motors, but running entirely by sail between sunset and sunrise, shall have lighted the colored side lights suitably screened, but not the white lights prescribed for motorboats.

Dinghies, tenders and other auxiliary craft only require a flashlight visible to other craft in the area.

### 2. Vessels at anchor

Vessels at anchor, between the hours of sunset and sunrise, except those in a "Special Anchorage Area," shall display such anchor lights as shall be required by the U.S. Coast Guard for watercraft of equivalent length and type.

## WISCONSIN

Sailboats equipped with motors, and being propelled by them in part or whole, shall carry and display lamps in the same manner as motorboats of the same class size.

Sailboats equipped with motors, but being propelled only by sail between sunset and sunrise, shall display only colored lamps, according to class size, and must carry a hand lantern or flashlight showing a white light that can be used in sufficient time to avoid a collision.

Sailboats without motors and all vessels propelled by muscular power, shall carry a hand lantern or flashlight showing a white light that can be used in sufficient time to avoid a collision.

Each white light specified above must be visible at a distance of 2 miles on a dark clear night. Each colored light must be visible at a distance of 1 mile.

Any boat may carry lights prescribed by federal law to prevent collisions at sea, in lieu of the above requirements.

Moored, anchored and drifting boats and other fixed structures, except duck blinds constructed in emergent vegetation, outside of designated anchorages, or beyond 200 feet from the shoreline shall be lighted from sunset to sunrise by a white light visible all around the horizon. "Designated anchorage" means that area of water established and marked as an anchorage by lawful authority.

## INDIANA

Same as if underway

# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

collision. The same rule applies to a vessel which is under oars.

A vessel proceeding under sail and also propelled by machinery shall exhibit forward where it can best be seen a conical shape, apex downward.

If the motorboat is anchored between sunset and sunrise on the Great Lakes or waters connected thereto and not in a special anchorage area, a white light shall be displayed on the forward part of the motorboat so as to be visible to a boat approaching from any direction.

A vessel at anchor shall exhibit where it can best be seen:

1. An all round white light, in the foreport;
2. An all round white light at or near the stern, lower than the light in the foreport.

A vessel of less than 7 meters in length when at anchor, not in or near a narrow channel, fairway, or anchorage, or where other vessels normally navigate, shall not be required to exhibit any lights.

The following specifications refer to how far all lights must be visible.

Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin are all the same as Federal, except when less than 16 feet in length, Wisconsin requires none.

Indiana requires the same as if the vessel is underway.

**ILLINOIS****WISCONSIN****INDIANA**

**2. Vessels at anchor  
(cont'd)**

**D. Sound Requirements**

It is unlawful to operate a motorboat without a mouth, hand, or power operated whistle, horn or other appliance, capable of producing a blast of 2 seconds or more in duration and audible for at least one-half mile.

No requirement

**1. For vessels less than  
16 feet in length**

Below 16 feet, no requirement

**2. For vessels greater than  
16 feet but less than  
26 feet in length**

16 feet and above, no requirement

**3. For vessels greater than  
26 feet in length**

# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

Less than 16 feet, no requirement

One hand, mouth or power whistle, capable of producing a blast of 2 seconds or more in duration, and audible for at least 1/2 mile.

An efficient fog bell which when struck produces a clear bell-like tone of full round characteristics.

One power-operated whistle capable of producing a blast of 2 seconds or more in duration, and audible for a distance of at least 1 mile.

If the vessel length is greater than 12 meters, but less than 50 meters in length:

Masthead - 5 miles  
 Sidelight - 2 miles  
 Any color all round light - 2 miles

If vessel length is less than 12 meters:

Masthead - 2 miles  
 Sidelight - 1 mile  
 All round light - 2 miles

No bell required. No whistle or horn required, but sound alert sounding proper rules of the road must be signaled as the situation arises, audible for 1/2 mile and 2 seconds in duration.

No bell required. One hand, mouth, or power whistle or horn required to be audible for a minimum of one-half mile and 2 seconds in duration.

Bell required. One hand, mouth, or power whistle required to be audible for a minimum of one-half mile and 2 seconds in duration.

Indiana has no requirement.

Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan have no sound requirements for vessels less than 16 feet.

For vessels from 16 to 26 feet, Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois require a mouth, hand or power signal, audible up to one-half mile and at least 2 seconds in duration.

For vessels greater than 26 feet, Wisconsin, Michigan and Federal also require a fog bell.

Indiana requires nothing.

## ILLINOIS

## WISCONSIN

## INDIANA

### E. Motor Noise Requirements

Except in the case of an officially sanctioned race, all motorboats propelled in whole or part by gas, gasoline or naphtha shall be equipped with a stock factory muffler, underwater or other modern devices capable of adequately muffling the sounds of the exhaust of the engine. That is, so as not to create unusual or excessive noise.

The engine of every motorboat propelled by an internal combustion engine shall be equipped with a muffler which is so constructed and kept in constant operation that it prevents excessive or unusual noise at all times while the engine is in operation. (For more detailed noise level information, see the Wisconsin State Statutes, Section 30.62, Subsection 2, Muffler Requirement and Noise Level Standards.)

It is unlawful for any person to operate a motorboat unless said boat motor is equipped with a muffler, underwater exhaust or other devices which muffle or suppress the sound of the exhaust so as to prevent excessive and unusual noise at all speeds.

### F. Sanitation Devices

No requirement

No person may, while maintaining or operating any boat equipped with toilets on inland or outlying waters of this state, dispose of any toilet wastes in any manner into the inland or outlying waters of this state.

Boats equipped with a water closet or toilet must also be equipped with a holding tank of capacity to store wastes for subsequent disposal at approved shoreside facilities.

### G. Visual Distress Signals



## MICHIGAN

The exhaust of all internal combustion engines shall be muffled effectively by equipment so constructed and used as to muffle the noise of the engine in a reasonable manner.

No requirement

## FEDERAL

No requirement

All recreation boats 65 feet or less in length with installed toilet facilities must have an installed Type I, II or III marine sanitation device.

No person may use a boat 16 feet or more in length or any boat carrying six or less passengers unless visual distress signals, in the proper number are on board.

Devices suitable for day use and devices suitable for night use, or devices suitable for both day and night use, must be carried.

No person, between sunset and sunrise, may use a boat less than 16 feet in length unless visual distress signals, suitable for night use, in the required number, are on board.

Except for the requirement applying to all boats between sunset and sunrise, the following exceptions apply to visual distress signals:

1. A person competing in any organized marine parade, regatta, race or similar event;
2. A person using a manually propelled boat;
3. A person using a sailboat of completely open construction, not equipped with propulsion

## VARIATIONS BY STATE

Federal has no requirements for motor noise.

All states require some sort of muffling device.

Federal regulations require any recreation boat less than 65 feet in length with fixed toilet facilities to have an approved Type I, II or III marine sanitation device.

Illinois and Michigan have no requirement.

Wisconsin and Indiana prohibit any dumping of wastes in state waters.

See federal requirement. Regulation is too recent to be reflected in individual state codes.

## NOTES

**ILLINOIS****WISCONSIN****INDIANA****G. Visual Distress Signals  
(cont'd)****III. Operation Requirements  
A. Weight/Person  
Capacity Limits**

Every vessel less than 26 feet in length designed to carry 2 or more persons and to be propelled by machinery as its principal source of power or designed to be propelled by oars shall, if manufactured or offered for sale in this state, have affixed permanently thereto, by the manufacturer, a capacity plate.

The capacity plate shall bear the following information:

1. The total weight of persons, motor, gear and other articles placed aboard which the vessel is capable of carrying with safety under normal conditions;
2. The recommended number of persons commensurate with the weight capacity of the vessel and presumed weight in pounds of each such person. In no instance shall such presumed weight per person be less than 150 lbs.;
3. Clear notice that the information applies under normal conditions and that the weight of the outboard motor and associated equipment is considered to be part of the total weight capacity; and
4. The maximum horsepower of the motor the vessel is designed or intended to accommodate. (only for vessels intended for use with an outboard motor.)

Same as Illinois

No person shall operate any boat which is loaded with passengers or cargo beyond its safe carrying capacity.

MICHIGAN	FEDERAL	VARIATIONS BY STATE	NOTES
<p>No requirement</p>	<p>machinery, under 26 feet in length.</p> <p>Visual distress signals must be readily accessible, in serviceable condition and properly marked with an approval number or certification statement.</p> <p>See <u>Appendix A</u>, Table 2 for the acceptable types of visual distress signals.</p> <p>Comply with capacity information plate or determine person capacity by multiplying overall length times maximum width and dividing by 15.  <math>L \times W / 15 = \text{person capacity}</math></p>	<p>Illinois, Wisconsin and Federal require capacity plate and information to be visible and in compliance with Federal regulations.</p> <p>Indiana requires that no vessel may operate beyond its safe limits.</p> <p>Michigan has no requirement.</p>	

## ILLINOIS

## WISCONSIN

## INDIANA

### B. Minimum Age of Operation

No person under the age of 10 shall operate a motorboat. Persons between 10 and 12 years old may operate a motorboat only if they are accompanied on the motorboat and are under the direct control of a parent or guardian. The same precautions apply to persons between 12 and 18 years old, unless such persons have successfully completed the state-approved boating safety course and has in their possession the appropriate certificate.

No person under the age of 10 years may operate a motorboat. Persons 10 years of age, but less than 12 may operate a motorboat only if they are either accompanied in the boat by a parent or guardian or a person at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian. Persons at least 12 years of age and less than 16 years of age may operate a motor of any horsepower, but only if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian, or in possession of a certificate issued for successful completion of the state-approved boating safety course.

It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 14 to operate a watercraft with a horsepower rating in excess of 10 horsepower except under one of the following conditions:

1. Accompanied by person over age of 18;
2. Accompanied by any person holding a certificate of completion of an approved boating course;
3. Such person under age 14 shall have completed an approved boating course.

### C. Accident Reporting

Any person involved in an accident or collision, is bound to render aid or assistance to any persons affected by the accident or collision, as long as in doing so does not pose a danger to himself, his passengers or vessel, and will alleviate or minimize the danger affecting such persons.

The owner of the vessel must give his name, address and description of his vessel to anyone suffering injury or property damage from the incident.

If the accident or collision results in injury, death or a minimum of \$100 damage, the operator of the

If a boating accident results in death or injury to any person, the disappearance of any person from a boat under circumstances indicating death or injury, or property damage over \$200, every operator of a boat involved in an accident shall, without delay and by the quickest means available, give notice of the accident to a conservation warden or local law enforcement officer and shall file a written report with the Department of Natural Resources on the form prescribed by it.

If the operator of the boat is physically incapable of making such a report any passenger present at the time shall then do so.

The operator of any boat involved in any accident or collision resulting in injury or death to any person or damage to any boat or other property to an apparent extent of \$200.00 or more shall:

1. immediately give notice of such accident to the office of the sheriff of the county or to the nearest state police post or to the nearest conservation officer and
2. mail to the IDNR a written report of said accident within 24 hours.

## MICHIGAN

Children less than 12 years of age may be permitted to operate motor-boats only when accompanied by at least one person 16 years of age or older. Children between 12 and 16 may be permitted to operate motor-boats only when accompanied by at least one person 16 years of age or older, or without such adult supervision, when in possession of a boating safety certificate issued subsequent to satisfactorily completing a department-approved course in boating safety.

In the case of collision, accident or other casualty involving a vessel, the operator shall report the collision, accident or other casualty to the nearest peace officer, state police post, or the sheriff of the county in which the collision, accident or other casualty occurred.

## FEDERAL

No requirement

If as a result of an accident involving a vessel, a person dies or disappears, the operator must notify the nearest state authority immediately.

The operator must file an accident report with the nearest state authority within 48 hours of:

- a. a person dying within 24 hours of the accident,
- b. a person requiring medical treatment beyond first aid,
- c. a person disappearing or
- d. damage to the vessel or properties exceeding \$200 or when there is a complete loss of the vessel.

## VARIATIONS BY STATE

Federal has no requirements for the minimum age of operation.

Illinois and Wisconsin require that no one under 10 years should operate a vessel.

10-12 year olds if accompanied by at least an 18 year old, may operate a vessel in Illinois and Wisconsin.

12-18 year olds if accompanied by an 18 year old or having completed a state-approved safety course, may operate a vessel in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Michigan requires that anyone under 12 years old should operate a vessel only if accompanied by at least a 16 year old.

12-16 year olds if accompanied by a 16 year old or in possession of a certificate from a state-approved safety course, may operate a vessel in Michigan.

Indiana requires that anyone under 14 years old on a craft in excess of 10 horsepower, should operate a vessel only if accompanied by an 18 year old or a person holding an approved safety course certificate.

Essentially, each state is in accordance with federal regulations.

## NOTES

**ILLINOIS****WISCONSIN****INDIANA****C. Accident Reporting  
(cont'd)**

vessel must make a written report of the incident to the Department of Conservation on a Department Accident Form.

If death results from the accident or collision, the report must be rendered within 48 hours. All other reportable incidents must be reported within 5 days.

**IV. Basic Rules of the Road**

Same as Federal

Same as Federal

Same as Federal

**V. References**

Illinois Department of Conservation  
Conservation Laws, Ch. 95½, Pars.  
311-1 through 323-1, 1982.

Wisconsin Department of Natural  
Resources  
Wisconsin Water and Boating Safety  
Laws of 1980 and 1983  
Senate Bill 83, Sections 834-869.

Indiana Boating Laws, IDNR revised,  
August 1983.

# MICHIGAN

# FEDERAL

# VARIATIONS BY STATE

# NOTES

Same as Federal

When the operator is incapable of filing any report, all passengers shall seek to do so instead.

While there are many specific rules that apply to safe navigation under any condition, an operator can use a general rule, common sense, to assure a lawful and safe boating experience. There is much similarity to marine "Rules of the Road" and the rules for driving a car. Good judgement can generally prevent disaster.

Basic rules of the road apply. Note the following list of unlawful practices:

1. Operating unregistered vessels.
2. Unauthorized use of flashing lights or sirens.
3. Operating under the influence of intoxicants.
4. Operating in a careless, reckless manner as to endanger life or property.
5. Operating in restricted areas.
6. Any type of littering.
7. Unlawful mooring, docking or buoying.
8. Obstructing navigation.
9. NOT obeying right-of-way rules.
10. Allowing passengers to ride when in danger of going overboard.

Marine Safety Act, MDNR, effective date April 19, 1975 with amendments in 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982.

33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)  
1.01 Navigation and Navigable Waters,  
Subchapters D, E and S,  
U.S. Government Printing Office  
1 July 1983.

No differences between state and federal regulations exist.

**ILLINOIS****WISCONSIN****INDIANA****Contact Offices**

Law Enforcement Division  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
Lincoln Tower Plaza  
524 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62706  
Phone: (217) 782-6431

Law Enforcement Division  
Wisconsin Department of Natural  
Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707  
Phone: (608) 266-2141

Law Enforcement Division  
Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources  
Room 606, State Office Building  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: (317) 232-4010

**Sea Grant Contacts**

Robert Espeseth  
Coordinator  
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program  
University of Illinois  
104 Huff Hall  
1206 South Fourth Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
Phone: (217) 333-1824

Jim Lubner  
University of Wisconsin  
Sea Grant Advisory Services  
Great Lakes Research Facility  
600 East Greenfield Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
Phone: (414) 224-3024

James Peterson  
Co-Coordinator  
Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant Program  
Purdue and Indiana Universities  
133 HPER Building  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
Phone: (812) 335-8037



**MICHIGAN****FEDERAL****VARIATIONS  
BY STATE****NOTES**

Law Enforcement Division  
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources  
Box 30028  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: (517) 373-1230

Chuck Pistis  
District Extension Sea Grant Agent  
Michigan Sea Grant  
County Extension Office  
Room 101  
Ottawa County Building  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
Phone: (616) 846-8250

John McKinney  
District Extension Sea Grant Agent  
Michigan Sea Grant  
Governmental Center  
400 Boardman Avenue  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: (616) 941-2256

# Appendix A

## Table 1

Approved Federal Personal Flotation  
Device Equivalents

Devices marked--	Are equivalent to performance type
160.002 Life preserver	Type I personal flotation device
160.003 Life preserver	Do.
160.004 Life preserver	Do.
160.005 Life preserver	Do.
160.009 Ring life buoy <sup>1</sup>	Type IV--personal flotation device
160.047 Buoyant vest	Type II personal flotation device
160.048 Buoyant cushion	Type IV personal flotation device
160.049 Buoyant cushion	Type II personal flotation device
160.050 Ring life buoy	Type V personal flotation device
160.052 Buoyant vest	Type I personal flotation device
160.053 Work vest	Type II personal flotation device
160.055 Life preserver	A device intended to be worn may be equivalent to type II or type III. A device that is equivalent to type III is marked "Type III Device--may not turn unconscious wearer." A device intended to be grasped is equivalent to type IV.
160.060 Buoyant vest	
160.064 Special purpose water safety buoyant devices	

<sup>1</sup>46 CFR Subpart 160.009 has been revoked. Type IV PFD's previously approved under that subpart may be used as long as they are in good and serviceable condition.

Source: 33 CFR 1.01 - Navigation and Navigable Waters, Subchapters D, E and S, U.S. Government Printing Office.

**Table 2**Acceptable Federal Pyrotechnic  
Signal Devices

Approval number under 46 CFR	Device description	Meets requirement for	Number required
160.021	Hand Held Red Flare Distress Signals <sup>3</sup>	Day and night	3
160.022	Floating Orange Smoke Distress Signals	Day only	3
160.024	Parachute Red Flare Distress Signals	Day and night <sup>1</sup>	3
160.036	Hand-Held Rocket-Propelled Parachute Red Flare Distress Signals	Day and night	3
160.037	Hand-Held Orange Smoke Distress Signals	Day only	3
160.057	Floating Orange Smoke Distress Signals	Day only	3
160.066	Distress Signal for Boats, Red Aerial Pyrotechnic Flare	Day and night <sup>2</sup>	3

<sup>1</sup>These signals require use in combination with a suitable launching device approved under 46 CFR 160.028.

<sup>2</sup>These devices may be either meteor or parachute assisted type. Some of these signals may require use in combination with a suitable launching device approved under 46 CFR 160.028.

<sup>3</sup>Must have manufacture date of 1 Oct. 1980 or later.

Source: 33 CFR 101 - Navigation and Navigable Waters, Subchapters D, E and S, U.S. Government Printing Office.

**Table 3**Required Federal Fire  
Extinguisher Requirements

Classification		Foam, gallons	Carbon dioxide, pounds	Dry chemical, pounds
Type	Size			
B	I	1½	4	2
B	II	2½	15	10
B	III	12	35	20

Source: 33 CFR 101 - Navigation and Navigable Waters, Subchapters D, E and S, U.S. Government Printing Office.