

IC 14-15-2

Chapter 2. Watercraft Equipment

IC 14-15-2-1

Unlawful operation without proper equipment

Sec. 1. A person may not operate a motorboat upon public water if the motorboat is not equipped with the equipment required by this chapter. The equipment must be:

- (1) in good repair and operating condition; and
- (2) ready for use;

at all times.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-2

Bilge ventilators

Sec. 2. The following must be equipped with at least two (2) bilge ventilators fitted with cowls, or the equivalent, and designed and constructed to permit the safe diffusion into the air of all inflammable or explosive gases:

- (1) An inboard motorboat that uses motor fuel having a flash point of not more than one hundred ten degrees (110°) Fahrenheit, as determined by a tagliabue or equivalent closed cup test device.
- (2) The greater part of the bilge of a motorboat that is not at all times open and exposed to the air.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-3

Carburetor backfire arrest device

Sec. 3. The carburetor on an inboard motorboat must be equipped with a stock factory device:

- (1) designed and constructed to arrest backfire; and
- (2) of a make or type approved by the United States Coast Guard.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-4

Mufflers; underwater exhaust

Sec. 4. (a) This section does not apply to a motorboat competing in and during a motorboat race for which a permit has been issued by the department.

(b) A person may not operate a motorboat on Indiana water unless the boat motor is equipped with:

- (1) a muffler;
- (2) an underwater exhaust; or
- (3) other device;

that muffles or suppresses the sound of the exhaust.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.195-2014, SEC.2.

IC 14-15-2-5

Muffler cutouts; bypass

Sec. 5. (a) This section does not apply to a motorboat competing in and during a motorboat race for which a permit has been issued by the department.

(b) A person may not operate a motorboat on Indiana water if the boat motor is equipped with any of the following:

- (1) A muffler cutout.
- (2) A bypass.
- (3) Any device similar to a muffler cutout or bypass.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-6

Personal flotation devices

Sec. 6. (a) This section does not apply to the following:

- (1) A sailboard or windsurfing board.
- (2) A manually propelled boat, such as a racing shell, rowing scull, or racing kayak:
 - (A) that is recognized by national or international racing associations for use in competitive racing;
 - (B) in which all occupants row, scull, or paddle, with the exception of a coxswain if a coxswain is provided; and
 - (C) that is designed to carry and carries equipment only for competitive racing.

(b) All boats must be equipped with the number and type of personal flotation devices listed in this subsection. A person may not operate a boat unless the boat contains:

- (1) for each person on board, one (1) personal flotation device that meets the requirements for designation by the United States Coast Guard as a wearable personal flotation device; and
- (2) for a boat, except a canoe or kayak, at least sixteen (16) feet in length and in addition to the requirements of subdivision (1), one (1) personal flotation device that meets the requirements for designation by the United States Coast Guard as a throwable personal flotation device.

(c) The director may waive the requirements of this section for a boat during competition in a boat race for which a permit has been issued by the department if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The sponsor of the boat race has informed the director of the precautions the sponsor will take to minimize the safety hazards that exist due to noncompliance with the requirements of this section.
- (2) The sponsor files with the director a document under which the sponsor assumes all liability that may result from the use of a boat under the waiver.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.38-2000, SEC.2; P.L.24-2001, SEC.1; P.L.111-2016, SEC.9.

IC 14-15-2-7

Holding tanks; sewage disposal

Sec. 7. (a) As used in this section, "sewage" means human body wastes.

(b) A person may not keep, maintain, or operate upon public water a boat that is equipped with a water closet or toilet unless the water closet or toilet is equipped with a holding tank with the capacity to store wastes for subsequent disposal at:

- (1) an approved shoreside facility or incinerator; or
- (2) a treatment system approved by the department of environmental management according to rules adopted by the environmental rules board.

(c) A person may not dispose of sewage accumulated in a holding tank or any other container on a watercraft in a manner that the sewage reaches or may reach public waters, except through a sewage disposal facility approved by the department of environmental management according to rules adopted by the environmental rules board.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.113-2014, SEC.95.

IC 14-15-2-8

Littering

Sec. 8. (a) As used in this section, "litter" means bottles, glass, crockery, cans, scrap metal, junk, paper, garbage, rubbish, plastic, or similar refuse.

(b) In the operation or use of watercraft, a person may not throw, dump, place, deposit, or cause or permit to be thrown, dumped, placed, or deposited:

- (1) any litter, filth, or putrid or unwholesome substance; or
- (2) the contents of a water closet or toilet, catch basin, or grease trap;

in or upon public water or the banks of public water.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-9

Gas or flammable liquids

Sec. 9. (a) This section does not apply to motor fuel or fuel used in pocket cigarette, cigar, or pipe lighters.

(b) A person may not carry in a boat that is:

- (1) kept, maintained, or operated upon public water; and
- (2) used to carry passengers for hire;

gas, liquefied gas, or an inflammable liquid capable of being used for cooking, heating, or lighting.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-10

Lights

Sec. 10. A person may not operate a boat upon public water

during the period between sunset and sunrise that is not equipped with a light required by this chapter. The light must be:

- (1) in good repair and operating condition; and
- (2) displayed and lighted or burning except as otherwise permitted.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-11

White light aft

Sec. 11. Motorboats and auxiliary sailboats must be equipped with at least one (1) white light aft, casting a light visible three hundred sixty degrees (360°) for a distance of at least two (2) miles, under the following conditions:

- (1) Except as provided in section 13 of this chapter, motorboats and auxiliary sailboats, whether under power and sail or power alone, must display one (1) of the following:

(A) An all-round white light aft.

(B) A combination of one (1) stern light visible through an arc of twelve (12) points or one hundred thirty-five degrees (135°) to the stern and at least one (1) masthead light visible twenty (20) points or two hundred twenty-five degrees (225°) so as to complete the white light arc over the horizon.

- (2) Sailboats more than twenty-two (22) feet in length and operating under sail alone must display one (1) of the following:

(A) An all-round white light aft visible three hundred sixty degrees (360°).

(B) A white stern light visible through an arc of twelve (12) points or one hundred thirty-five degrees (135°) to the stern.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-12

Combination starboard and port lights

Sec. 12. All:

- (1) motorboats and auxiliary sailboats equipped with a motor or engine rated at least fifteen (15) horsepower; and
- (2) sailboats more than twenty-two (22) feet in length;

must be equipped with combination lights forward showing green to starboard and red to port visible for a distance of at least one (1) mile and affixed or attached so as to throw light from dead ahead to two (2) points abaft the beam of the respective sides. The lights shall be affixed or attached to the bow of the boat, except that sailboats operating under sail alone may combine the red and green lights with the stern light at the uppermost point of the mast.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-13

Hand lanterns or flashlights

Sec. 13. (a) This section applies to the following:

- (1) Nonpowered boats including canoes and kayaks.
- (2) Sailboats not more than twenty-two (22) feet in length under sail alone.
- (3) Boats powered only by electric motor on lakes restricted to propulsion solely by oars, paddles, or electric motors.
- (4) Any boat using an electric motor for positioning purposes only.

(b) A boat must 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 at least two (2) miles. The operator of the boat shall display the same or the white light aft, if available, in sufficient time to avoid a collision with any other boat that is being operated in accordance with this article.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-14

Pontoon boat lights

Sec. 14. All flat bottomed boats supported by floats, commonly called pontoon boats, must display a fixed combination red and green light forward and a fixed white light aft, according to standards prescribed by the department.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8.

IC 14-15-2-15

Violations

Sec. 15. (a) A person who violates section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7(b), 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14 of this chapter commits a Class C infraction.

(b) A person who violates section 7(c) or 8 of this chapter commits a Class A infraction. Notwithstanding IC 34-28-5-4(a), a judgment of at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be imposed for each Class A infraction committed in violation of section 7(c) or 8 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.1-1995, SEC.8. Amended by P.L.137-2007, SEC.32; P.L.195-2014, SEC.3; P.L.111-2016, SEC.10.