

National Transportation Safety Board

M-93-1 – Minimum Recreational Boating Safety Standards

(Current as of November, 2008)

State	Age of Mandatory PFD Use	Mandatory Boater Education	Operator Licensing
Alabama	Under Age 8		YES
Alaska	Under Age 13		
Arizona	12 and Under		
Arkansas	12 and Under	YES	
California	11 and Under		
Colorado	Under Age 13	YES	
Connecticut	12 and Under	YES	
Delaware	12 and Under	YES	
D.C.	Under Age 13	YES	
Florida	Under Age 6**	YES	
Georgia	Under Age 10	YES	
Hawaii	Under Age 13		
Idaho	14 and Under**		
Illinois	12 and Under	YES	
Indiana	12 and Under		
Iowa	12 and Under	YES	
Kansas	12 and Under	YES	
Kentucky	Under Age 12	YES	
Louisiana	12 and Under	YES	
Maine	10 and Under		
Maryland	Under Age 7	YES	
Massachusetts	Under Age 12		
Michigan	Under Age 6	YES	
Minnesota	Under age 10		
Mississippi	12 and Under**	YES	
Missouri	Under Age 7	YES	
Montana	Under Age 12		
Nebraska	Under Age 13	YES	
Nevada	Under Age 13	YES	
New Hampshire	12 and Under	YES	
New Jersey	12 and Under	YES	
New Mexico	12 and Under	YES	
New York	Under Age 12**	YES	
North Carolina	Under Age 13		
North Dakota	10 and Under**	YES	
Ohio	Under Age 10**	YES	
Oklahoma	12 and Under**	YES	
Oregon	12 and Under	YES	
Pennsylvania	12 and Under**	YES	
Rhode Island	Under Age 13	YES	
South Carolina	Under Age 12**		
South Dakota	Under Age 7	YES	
Tennessee	12 and Under	YES	
Texas	Under Age 13	YES	
Utah	12 and Under		
Vermont	Under Age 12	YES	
Virginia		YES	
Washington	12 and Under	YES	
West Virginia	12 and Under	YES	
Wisconsin		YES	
Wyoming	12 and Under		

**Law applies to power boats less than a length specified in the State law—length varies from less than 16 ft. to less than 29 ft. depending upon the State. Puerto Rico also reports mandatory PFD use ages 12 and under. USVI signed mandatory education and PFD s for children (under age 17) into law on April 3, 2006.