

National Transportation Safety Board

M-93-1 – Minimum Recreational Boating Safety Standards

(Current as of February 28, 2003)

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			
Connecticut	Under Age 12	YES	
Delaware	12 and Under	YES	
D.C.		YES	
Florida	Under Age 6**	YES	
Georgia	Under Age 10		
Hawaii	12 and Under**		
Idaho	14 and Under**		
Illinois	12 and Under		
Indiana			
Iowa			
Kansas	12 and Under	YES	
Kentucky	Under Age 12	YES	
Louisiana	12 and Under		
Maine	10 and Under		
Maryland	Under Age 7	YES	
Massachusetts	Under Age 12		
Michigan	Under Age 6	YES	
Minnesota			
Mississippi	12 and Under**	YES	
Missouri	6 and Under		
Montana	Under Age 12		
Nebraska	Under Age 12		
Nevada	Under Age 12	YES	
New Hampshire	5 and Under	YES	
New Jersey	12 and Under	YES	
New Mexico			
New York	Under Age 12**		
North Carolina			
North Dakota	10 and Under**		
Ohio	Under Age 10**	YES	
Oklahoma	12 and Under**		
Oregon	12 and Under	YES	
Pennsylvania	12 and Under**	YES	
Rhode Island	10 and Under**	YES	
South Carolina	Under Age 12**		
South Dakota	Under Age 7		
Tennessee	12 and Under		
Texas	Under Age 13	YES	
Utah	12 and Under		
Vermont	Under Age 12	YES	
Virginia			
Washington	12 and Under		
West Virginia	12 and Under	YES	
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			

**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 use at ages 12 and under. Hawaii awaits Governor's signature.