

This document contains the Connecticut regulations for Safe boating and Personal watercraft certification. These regulations became effective on July 8, 2011. This document was prepared by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and is provided for the convenience of the reader. This is not the official version of the regulations. The official regulations are published by the State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch, Commission on Official Legal Publications in the Connecticut Law Journal. In the event there is inconsistency between this document and the regulations as published in the Connecticut Law Journal, the Connecticut Law Journal publication will serve as the official version.

Sec. 15-140e. Safe boating certificate.

- (a) No resident of the state, person owning real property in the state or person owning a vessel in the state shall operate on the waters of the state a vessel which is required to be registered or numbered pursuant to this chapter unless such person has a valid vessel operator license issued by the United States Coast Guard or has obtained a safe boating certificate issued by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. No owner of a vessel shall knowingly authorize or permit a person who is less than sixteen years of age who is required by this section to obtain a safe boating certificate issued by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to operate such vessel on the waters of the state without a safe boating certificate, unless such person is under the direct onboard supervision of a person who is at least eighteen years of age who has been issued a safe boating certificate and who has held such certificate for at least two years. A safe boating certificate may be suspended or revoked, pursuant to section 15-133, 15-140/ or 15-140n, and shall be valid for the life of the person to whom it is issued unless otherwise suspended or revoked.
- (b) A safe boating certificate shall be issued under subsection (a) to any applicant regardless of age who provides proof that such applicant has:
- (1) Successfully completed a course in safe boating operation approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, which courses may include those offered by the United States Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary or other organizations, or
 - (2) successfully passed an equivalency examination testing knowledge of safe boating operation administered by the commissioner.
- (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, any person who purchases a new or used vessel may, upon vessel registration, apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for a temporary safe boating certificate which shall be valid for three months from the date of registration. No person shall be issued more than one temporary safe boating certificate.
- (d) Any person operating a vessel other than a personal watercraft, as defined in section 15-140j, which is rented for a period of fourteen days or less from a boat livery need not obtain a certificate during the rental period. An owner, agent or employee of a boat livery shall furnish to each rental customer literature on safety and rules of navigation as supplied by the commissioner.
- (e) Any person enrolled in a course in safe boating operation approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection may operate a vessel without a safe boating certificate when under the direct onboard supervision of a boating instructor holding a valid instructor number issued by the Department of Environmental Protection.
- (f) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be fined not less than sixty nor more than two hundred fifty dollars for each such violation.

(g) Any course in safe boating operation approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, as described in subsection (b) of this section, shall include instruction on the proper means of:

- (1) Inspecting a vessel and trailers used for transporting such vessels for the presence of vegetation; and
- (2) properly disposing of such vegetation.

Sec. 15 140f-1. Safe boating certificate course content.

(a) Any person required by subsections (a) or (b) of Section 15-140e of the Connecticut General Statutes to successfully complete a course prior to issuance of a safe boating certificate shall complete a course in safe boating operation which, for purposes of these regulations, shall include a minimum of eight hours of classroom instruction. Said course shall subscribe to the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) National Boating Education Standards amended from time to time and available from the NASBLA Headquarters Office, 1500 Leestown Road, Suite 330, Lexington, KY (859-225-9487) and online at www.nasbla.org. Said course shall include a section on invasive aquatic vegetation as described in section 5 of Public Act 03-136.

(b) For purposes of this section, Section 15-140e, and subsection (c) of Section 15-140f of the Connecticut General Statutes, the following courses in safe boating operation may be approved by the Commissioner:

- (1) classroom courses with a closed book proctored examination in safe boating operation taught by Department of Environmental Protection personnel or their agents who have been designated to teach such course by the Commissioner;
- (2) classroom courses in safe boating operation which have been approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators with a proctored closed book examination;
- (3) classroom courses in safe boating operation taught by members of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary with a proctored closed book examination; and
- (4) classroom courses in safe boating operation taught by members of the United States Power Squadrons with a proctored closed book examination.

(c) A list of approved courses shall be maintained by the Commissioner.

Sec. 15-140f-2. Proctored examinations for safe boating certificates.

(a) Any person taking an approved course in safe boating operation as the prerequisite for issuance of a safe boating certificate shall also be required to pass a proctored closed book examination to be given at the conclusion of such course. In the case of a course in safe boating operation taught by Department of

Environmental Protection personnel or its agents, such examination shall consist of no fewer than fifty questions prepared by the Commissioner. The minimum score to pass such examination shall be eighty percent correct answers.

(b) As provided by Section 15-140e(b)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, any person may take an equivalency examination in order to satisfy the prerequisite for issuance of a safe boating certificate. Such examination may be taken only one time. The equivalency examination shall be taken upon application, in person at a place and at a time designated by the Commissioner and shall consist of a closed book examination of no fewer than fifty questions prepared by the Commissioner. The minimum score to pass such examination shall be eighty percent correct answers. Any person who fails to pass such examination shall be required to successfully complete an approved course in safe boating operation as identified in Section 15-140f-1 or 15-140j-2(c)(1) of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies as a prerequisite to receiving a safe boating certificate.

Sec. 15-140f-3. Issuance of safe boating certificates.

- (a) Any person required by subsection (a) of Section 15-140e of the Connecticut General Statutes to obtain a safe boating certificate shall apply to the Commissioner for such certificate on a form provided by the Commissioner. The applicant shall provide the following information on the form: the applicant's name, address, date of birth, place of birth, phone number, sex, hair color, eye color, and height. Proof of identity shall be required as provided in subsection (a) of Section 14-137-67 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, except that a valid Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license with photograph of the applicant, or an acknowledgment of the identity of the applicant, taken by a person authorized by Section 1-29 of the Connecticut General Statutes to take such acknowledgment, if submitted as part of the application shall be conclusive proof of the identity of the applicant.
- (b) A safe boating certificate issued to any person less than twelve years of age shall have a notation thereon that the holder of such certificate shall not operate a vessel with a motor of greater than ten horsepower unless he is under the on-board supervision of a person at least eighteen years of age who has been issued a safe boating certificate.
- (c) Each safe boating certificate issued by the Commissioner shall be assigned a boat operator number unique to the person to whom such certificate is issued and the same number shall be assigned to any duplicates of such certificate. Only one safe boating certificate and boat operator number shall be assigned to any person and no person shall apply for or obtain more than one such certificate or number.

- (d) No person shall make a material false statement on an application to obtain a safe boating certificate or duplicate certificate and every statement made on any such application shall be upon oath or affirmation. The certificate of any person who knowingly makes a material false statement, or provides insufficient funds for payment of applicable fees, or obtains any certificate to which he is not entitled, shall be null and void.
- (e) No person shall alter or deface a safe boating certificate or a duplicate certificate, and no person shall exhibit to any enforcement officer identified in Section 15-154 of the Connecticut General Statutes, a certificate or duplicate certificate which has been altered or defaced, or a certificate or duplicate certificate other than the one issued to him.
- (f) Duplicates of safe boating certificates may be issued by the Commissioner only to applicants who change their legal name or to applicants whose certificate is lost, stolen, or destroyed upon application to the Commissioner on a form provided by the Commissioner. Every statement made on any such application shall be upon oath or affirmation. Information to be provided by the applicant may include any or all of the items which the Commissioner, in his sole discretion, deems required for issuance of an original certificate. Any person to whom a duplicate certificate is issued who subsequently finds or has returned to him the original or previous duplicate of such certificate shall, within five days, return his last-issued certificate to the Boating Division of the Department of Environmental Protection.
- (g) Temporary safe boating certificates shall be subject to the same provisions regarding issuance of safe boating certificates set forth in subsections (a) through (f) of this section. Each application for a temporary certificate shall be accompanied by a certificate of number or certificate of decal issued to the applicant for his vessel on the date of vessel registration. Temporary certificates shall expire in three months from the date of vessel registration as is provided for in Section 15-140e(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes. No person shall be issued more than one temporary safe boating certificate and issuance of a temporary certificate shall not entitle the holder thereof to issuance of a lifetime certificate as provided for by subsection (a) of Section 15-140e of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (h) Any person applying for a safe boating certificate by providing proof that he has successfully completed an approved course in safe boating operation shall provide with his application the original document demonstrating successful course completion, or a copy thereof, or an original statement, written on the letterhead of and signed by an authorized representative of the agency or organization which gave such course, attesting to the existence of records which show that the applicant successfully completed such course. The Commissioner may waive such requirement

of proof when verification is obtained from records of the Commissioner which show such approved course in safe boating operation was successfully completed.

- (i) Any person applying for a safe boating certificate by providing proof that he has successfully passed an equivalency examination shall provide with his application the original document demonstrating that the applicant passed such examination. The Commissioner may waive such requirement of proof when verification is obtained from records of the Commissioner which show such examination was passed.

Sec. 15-140f-4. Fees for safe boating certificate courses and examinations and for issuing safe boating certificates, temporary safe boating certificates and duplicate certificates.

- (a) There shall be no fee for an approved course in safe boating operation taught by Department of Environmental Protection personnel or its agents.
- (b) The fee for a safe boating certificate equivalency examination shall be seventy five dollars for any person taking such examination.
- (c) The fee for issuance of a safe boating certificate or temporary safe boating certificate shall be fifty dollars.
- (d) The Commissioner may set a fee for issuance of a duplicate safe boating certificate of twenty dollars.
- (e) Duplicate certificates issued because of name change due to marriage or divorce shall be free of charge.
- (f) The fee payable under this section for an equivalency examination shall be paid prior to taking such examination. Fees for issuance of certificates payable under this section shall accompany the application for a safe boating certificate, temporary safe boating certificate or duplicate certificate.

Sec. 15-140f-5. Reciprocal agreements with other states.

- (a) Any person who possesses a safe boating or a personal watercraft operation certificate issued by a state having an agreement of reciprocity with the Commissioner may present evidence of said certificate to satisfy the educational requirements, as described in Sections 15-140e and 15-140j of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the issuance of a Connecticut safe boating certificate or a certificate of personal watercraft operation.

- (b) Any person who is required to possess a safe boating certificate under Section 15-140e of the Connecticut General Statutes, or a certificate of personal watercraft operation under Section 15-140j of the Connecticut General Statutes, and who possesses a safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation issued by a state having an agreement of reciprocity with the Commissioner, shall obtain a safe boating certificate or certificate of personal watercraft operation issued by the Commissioner within ninety days of becoming a resident of this state.

Sec. 15-140j-1. Issuance of certificates of personal watercraft operation.

- (a) A certificate of personal watercraft operation required by subsection (b) of Section 15-140j of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be a safe boating certificate as described in subsection (a) of Section 15-140e of the Connecticut General Statutes, with a notation thereon that the person to whom it is issued may operate a personal watercraft. For purposes of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, "personal watercraft" shall be defined as that term is defined in Section 15-140j of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.
- (b) Any person required to obtain a certificate of personal watercraft operation shall apply for such certificate to the Commissioner on a form provided by the Commissioner. The application shall contain the items of information required by subsection (a) of 15-140f-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies for issuance of a safe boating certificate. The applicant shall also provide with the application:
- (1) the original or a photocopy of the document demonstrating successful completion of the course specified in Section 15-140j-2(c)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, or an original statement, written on the letterhead of and signed by an authorized representative of the agency or organization which gave such course, attesting to the existence of records which show that the applicant successfully completed such course; or
 - (2) the original or a photocopy of the document demonstrating successful completion of the course specified in Section 15-140j-2(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and the original lifetime safe boating certificate or duplicate of such certificate issued pursuant to Section 15-140f-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, or other verification obtained from the records of the Commissioner that such certificate was issued, or proof as specified in subsection (h) or (i) of Section 15-140f-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies of eligibility to be issued such certificate; or

- (3) the original or a photocopy of the document demonstrating successful passing of the equivalency examination specified in Section 15-140j-2(c)(2) of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies.

The Commissioner may waive the requirements contained in subdivisions (1) to (3) of this subsection, as applicable, if the records of the Commissioner demonstrate that a course as specified in this section was successfully completed or an equivalency examination, as specified in Section 15-140j-2(c)(2) of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies, was passed.

- (c) Issuance of certificates of personal watercraft operation shall be subject to the same provisions regarding issuance set forth for safe boating certificates in subsections (b) through (f) of Section 15-140f-3 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- (d) Any person eligible upon completion of requirements to be issued a certificate of personal watercraft operation who has previously been issued a safe boating certificate shall surrender such safe boating certificate and any duplicate thereof to the Commissioner prior to issuance of the certificate of personal watercraft operation.
- (e) Temporary certificates of personal watercraft operation shall be subject to the same provisions regarding issuance set forth for certificates of personal watercraft operation in subsections (a) through (d) of this section. Each application for a temporary certificate of personal watercraft operation shall be accompanied by a certificate of number or certificate of decal issued to the applicant for his personal watercraft vessel registration. Each applicant must provide with his application for a temporary certificate of personal watercraft operation the original document demonstrating successful completion of an approved course specified in Section 15-140j-2(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, or a copy thereof, or an original statement, written on the letterhead of and signed by an authorized representative of the agency or organization which gave such course, attesting to the existence of records which show that the applicant successfully completed such course. The Commissioner may waive such requirement when documentation demonstrating that such classroom course was successfully completed may be obtained from records of the Commissioner. A temporary certificate shall expire in three months from the date of the vessel registration, as is provided for in Section 15-140j(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes. No person shall be issued more than one temporary certificate of personal watercraft operation. The issuance of a temporary certificate does not entitle the holder thereof to issuance of a certificate of personal watercraft operation issued by the Commissioner pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 15-140j of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Sec. 15-140j-2. Certificate of personal watercraft operation course the content.

(a) Any person required by subsection (b) of Section 15-140j of the Connecticut General Statutes to obtain a certificate of personal watercraft operation, in addition to providing proof as described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of Section 15-140j-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies that such person has been issued or is eligible to be issued a lifetime safe boating certificate, shall successfully complete a classroom course in safe personal watercraft handling which has been approved by the Commissioner. Such course shall provide instruction in the following subjects:

- (1) safe personal watercraft operation;
- (2) courtesy to other users of the waters; and
- (3) applicability of boating law to personal watercraft.

(b) Any person required to successfully complete the course described in subsection (a) of this section shall also pass an examination to be given at the conclusion of such course. The examination shall consist of not less than ten questions pertaining to those subject areas listed in subdivisions (1), (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section. The minimum score to pass such examination shall be eighty percent correct answers.

(c) The following may be substituted in lieu of the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section: (1) Any person required by subsection (b) of Section 15-140j of the Connecticut General Statutes to obtain a certificate of personal watercraft operation may complete a combined basic boating and safe personal watercraft handling course which has been approved by the Commissioner. Such combined course shall contain all topic areas designated in subdivisions (1), (2) and (3) of subsection (a) of this section and subsection (a) of Section 15-140f-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Any person who successfully completes the combined basic boating and safe personal watercraft handling course shall also pass a proctored closed book examination given at the conclusion of the course. Such examination shall consist of not less than fifty questions covering all required topic areas. The minimum score to pass such examination shall be eighty percent correct answers; or (2) upon application, any person may take an equivalency examination which tests their knowledge of safe personal watercraft handling. Such equivalency examination shall be administered by the Commissioner and may be taken only once. The examination shall be taken in person at a place and time designated by the Commissioner. The examination shall be a closed book examination with no fewer than fifty questions prepared by the Commissioner. The minimum score to pass such examination shall be eighty percent correct answers. Any person who passes such examination shall be qualified to receive a certificate of personal watercraft operation. Any person who fails to pass such examination shall be required to successfully complete a personal watercraft course as identified in subsections (a) and (b) of this section or in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this

section as a prerequisite to receiving a certificate of personal watercraft operation.

Sec. 15-140j-3. Fees for certificate of personal watercraft operation courses and for issuing certificates of personal watercraft operation, Temporary Certificates of Personal Watercraft Operation and duplicate certificates.

- (a) There shall be no fee for the certificate of personal watercraft operation course taught pursuant to Section 15-140j-2(a) of the Regulations of the Connecticut State Agencies by Department of Environmental Protection personnel or its agents.
- (b) The fee for a certificate of personal watercraft operation equivalency examination shall be seventy five dollars.
- (c) The fee for issuance of a certificate of personal watercraft operation or temporary certificate of personal watercraft operation shall be fifty dollars.
- (d) The Commissioner may set a fee of twenty dollars for issuance of a duplicate certificate of personal watercraft operation.
- (e) Duplicate certificates issued because of name change due to marriage or divorce shall be free of charge.
- (f) The fee payable under this section for an equivalency examination shall be paid prior to taking such examination. Fees for issuance of certificates and duplicate certificates payable under this section shall accompany the application for a certificate of personal watercraft operation or duplicate certificate.

Sec. 15-140v-1. Reinstatement of safe boating certificate, right to operate vessel or certificate of personal watercraft operation.

The commissioner shall not reinstate a person's safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation until such person notifies the commissioner in writing of the completion of the required suspension period and requests the reinstatement of such person's safe boating certificate, right to operate a vessel that requires a safe boating certificate for operation or certificate of personal watercraft operation.