

## Marine Notice No. 26 of 2015

*Notice to all Masters, Owners and Users of Pleasure and Recreational Craft.*

### **Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft and Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Requirements**

In response to Marine Casualty Investigation Board recommendations, the purpose of this Marine Notice is:

- To promote and highlight the availability of the ***Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft*** as a useful source of information relating to requirements and advice on best practice for operators, owners and users of recreational craft; and
- To remind masters, owners, users, charterers, skippers and crew of the legal requirements in relation to the wearing and carrying of Personal Flotation Devices and the need for the proper care and maintenance of such devices as outlined in:
  - [Marine Notice No. 45 of 2012](#) - “Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids”, and
  - [Marine Notice No. 39 of 2013](#) - “Wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and increase your chance of survival in the event of entering water”.

#### **Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft:**

It is the responsibility of owners and operators of recreational craft to ensure that a vessel is properly operated, maintained and equipped. The ***Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft*** assists with this responsibility by providing safety information on legislative requirements in a simple and user-friendly way, and by giving straightforward safety advice and guidance on best practice in relation to vessel standards, equipment and operation for different types of recreational craft and their areas of operation.

Part A of the Code of Practice outlines statutory requirements that are applicable to:

- all pleasure craft
- pleasure craft greater than 12 metres in length
- pleasure craft greater than 15 Net Registered Tons
- pleasure craft greater than 13.7 metres in length.

Part B of the Code of Practice contains recommended guidelines on training, safety equipment, voyage planning and communications for the safe operation of the following craft:

- Sailing Dinghies
- Sail and Motor Craft – Coastal Operation
- Sail and Motor Craft – Inland Waterways
- Personal Watercraft, e.g. Jetskis
- Windsurfing
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Rowing
- Charter Boats/Bare Boat Hire.

General information is also provided on safety operations and emergency procedures.

The Irish Maritime Administration encourages all those engaged in leisure pursuits on the water to be aware of and familiar with the contents of the Code of Practice, and to comply with the safety requirements. The Marine Casualty Investigation Board has also recommended the use of the Code as an information source. The Code of Practice is available free of charge on request from Maritime Safety Policy Division (email: [marineleisuresafety@dtas.ie](mailto:marineleisuresafety@dtas.ie)) and is also available to view or download from [www.safetyonthewater.ie](http://www.safetyonthewater.ie) or from the Department's website at [Code of Practice](#).

### **Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Requirements**

#### **Marine Notice No. 45 of 2012 – Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids**

Marine Notice No. 45 of 2012 is directed at all owners, masters and users of pleasure and recreational craft. It reminds the public of the legal requirements in relation to the wearing and carrying of PFDs and raises public awareness about the different types and performance standards for PFDs. Section 6 of the Marine Notice gives detailed guidance on how a person should ensure the servicing and maintenance of their PFD. Marine Notice No. 45 of 2012 is available to view or download at [M.N. 45 of 2012](#).

#### **Marine Notice No. 39 of 2013 - – Wear a Personal Flotation Device and increase your chance of survival in the event of entering the water.**

Further detail on the wearing and carrying of PFDs in the fishing and commercial vessel sectors is contained in Marine Notice No. 39 of 2013. This Marine Notice is addressed to all owners, charterers, masters, skippers and crew of fishing and commercial vessels but also contains relevant information for the recreational sector. It reminds the target group of the legal requirements in relation to the wearing and carrying of PFDs, raises awareness about the different types and performance standards for PFDs, offers an extensive question-and-answer section on the operation of PFDs and gives detailed advice on the selection, servicing and maintenance of PFDs. Marine Notice No. 39 of 2013 is available to view or download at [M.N. 39 of 2013](#).

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