

1 Department of Natural Resources

2

3 Adopted Rules Relating to Boat and Water Safety

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5 Rules as Adopted

6 6110.1200 NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE;

7 SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

8 Subpart 1. Rules of the road. Rules of the road:

9 A. to C. [Unchanged.]

10 D. A nonmotorized watercraft has right-of-way over a
11 motor-powered watercraft except when it is the overtaking
12 watercraft. Motor-powered watercraft should always keep clear
13 and pass astern of nonmotorized watercraft.

14 E. Small watercraft shall not insist on the
15 right-of-way, nor unnecessarily impede the passage of large
16 commercial vessels, which are restricted in their ability to
17 maneuver by size, draft, or speed.

18 F. When watercraft are in a narrow channel, each
19 shall keep as far to the right as may be safe or practical.

20 G. All watercraft shall yield the right-of-way to
21 enforcement or other authorized emergency watercraft displaying
22 a red or blue flashing light.

23 Subp. 2. Mode of operation of watercraft. Mode of
24 operation:

25 A. to C. [Unchanged.]

26 D. No person shall operate a watercraft in the
27 vicinity of a lock and dam on the Mississippi River from Upper
28 St. Anthony Falls through Lock and Dam Number Eight in violation
29 of the following:

30 (1) In the marked restricted area 600 feet
31 upstream or 150 feet downstream of the dam, including auxiliary
32 locks not in service.

33 (2) At greater than a slow-no wake speed in the
34 lock or lock approach area. Slow-no wake, means the operation
35 of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to

1 maintain steerage, and in no case greater than five miles per
2 hour.

3 (3) Enforcement, emergency, resource management,
4 and other government personnel or contractors are exempt from
5 this part when performing official duties or authorized work.

6 E. The operator of any watercraft, when signaled to
7 do so by a conservation officer, sheriff, or sheriff's deputy
8 shall bring the watercraft to a stop or maneuver it in a manner
9 which will allow the officer to come alongside.

10 Subp. 3. Personal flotation (lifesaving) devices.

11 Flotation devices:

12 A. to C. [Unchanged.]

13 D. All personal flotation devices required by this
14 subpart shall be:

15 (1) and (2) [Unchanged.]

16 (3) in serviceable condition free of tears, rot,
17 punctures, or waterlogging, and with all straps and fasteners
18 present and in good condition;

19 (4) either readily accessible or worn; except for
20 those Type V devices which are required to be worn to be
21 accepted as United States Coast Guard approved. Readily
22 accessible means easily retrievable within a reasonable amount
23 of time in an emergency. Personal flotation devices located in
24 locked containers, under heavy objects or left in shipping bags
25 are not considered readily accessible;

26 (5) [Unchanged.]

27 Subp. 4. to 7. [Unchanged.]

28 6110.1500 WATERWAY MARKERS.

29 Subpart 1. [Unchanged.]

30 Subp. 2. Channel marker buoys. Channel marker buoys:

31 A. [Unchanged.]

32 B. Where channel marker buoys are placed to indicate
33 the location of a well defined boating channel, an all green
34 buoy and an all red buoy shall be placed in opposition to each
35 other to indicate the course of the channel is located between

1 them. In flowing water, the red buoy shall be situated on the
2 right side of the channel when facing upstream. A green
3 flashing light shall be used in conjunction with a green buoy if
4 it is to be lighted. When reflectorization is used with a green
5 buoy, it shall be green in color and no less than a four-inch
6 wide strip shall completely surround the buoy and shall be
7 located at the top of the buoy. Number designations shall be
8 odd. A red flashing light shall be used in conjunction with a
9 red buoy if it is to be lighted. When reflectorization is used
10 with a red buoy, it shall be red in color and no less than a
11 four-inch wide strip shall completely surround the buoy and
12 shall be located at the top of the buoy. Number designations
13 shall be even. Existing black buoys may be used through
14 December 31, 1987.

15 C. and D. [Unchanged.]

16 Subp. 3. to 6. [Unchanged.]

17 6110.1900 ACCIDENT REPORTS.

18 Each county sheriff shall report to the commissioner of
19 natural resources promptly, on forms provided by the
20 commissioner, each accident involving a watercraft, and every
21 drowning, in order to properly evaluate the water safety
22 program. In the event of death, the report shall be made within
23 48 hours; in event of serious injury which incapacitates the
24 victim for more than 72 hours or involves property damage of
25 over \$200 report must be made within five days. Each charge of
26 a violation of law made against a watercraft operator and each
27 written warning thereof shall be reported. Each watercraft for
28 hire which does not comply with the standards of safety for such
29 watercraft shall also be reported.