

1 Department of Natural Resources

2

3 Adopted Permanent Rules Relating to Boat and Water Safety

4

5 Rules as Adopted

6 6110.0100 APPLICATION FOR WATERCRAFT LICENSE.

7 Application for watercraft license shall be made to the  
8 commissioner of natural resources or authorized agents on a form  
9 the commissioner shall provide. The commissioner may specify  
10 the information required on the application, including that  
11 which may be required by federal regulation. A watercraft  
12 license number and certificate shall be issued by the  
13 commissioner upon receipt of the fee prescribed by law.

14 6110.0300 DISPLAY OF LICENSE NUMBER AND VALIDATION DECAL ON  
15 MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT.

16 The license number on all watercraft, except nonmotorized  
17 canoes, kayaks, sailboats, sailboards, paddle boats, and rowing  
18 shells shall be securely affixed on each side of the forward  
19 half of the watercraft for which it was issued in such a  
20 position as to provide clear and legible identification. The  
21 letters and numerals must be of a color that contrasts with the  
22 background and may be decals or metal or may be painted. The  
23 letters and numerals shall read from left to right and shall not  
24 be less than three inches in height, of block type, of a stroke  
25 not less than one-half inch or more than three-fourths inch in  
26 width, not including a border. The license number shall be  
27 maintained so that it is clearly visible and legible, and the  
28 letter groups must be separated from the numeral groups by a  
29 space of not less than three inches nor more than four inches.  
30 Adjacent letters and numerals within each group must be spaced  
31 not less than one-half inch nor more than three-fourths inch  
32 apart. A state validation decal for the current license period  
33 must be affixed toward the stern of the boat and not more than  
34 four inches from the first or last letter of the license number  
35 on each side of the boat.

1 6110.1000 ENFORCEMENT PENNANT.

2 The pennant required under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3 86B.805, subdivision 2, shall be triangular in shape and of the  
4 following dimensions: four inches in depth at the staff and one  
5 foot in length. The pennant shall be of a blue background and  
6 bear a three-inch replica of the Minnesota state seal.

7 6110.1200 NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON WATERS OF THE STATE;  
8 SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

9 [For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]

10 Subp. 2. Mode of operation of watercraft. Mode of  
11 operation:

12 A. No person shall operate a watercraft in such a  
13 manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass, or  
14 unnecessarily interfere with any other person or property.

15 B. No person shall operate a watercraft in any manner  
16 as to intentionally obstruct or interfere with the takeoff,  
17 landing, or taxiing of any aircraft.

18 C. No person shall operate a watercraft within 150  
19 feet of a diver's warning flag (described in Minnesota Statutes,  
20 section 86B.601).

21 D. No person shall operate a watercraft in the  
22 vicinity of a lock and dam on the Mississippi River from Upper  
23 St. Anthony Falls through Lock and Dam Number Eight in violation  
24 of the following:

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

28 (2) At greater than a slow-no wake speed in the  
29 lock or lock approach area. "Slow-no wake," means the operation  
30 of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to  
31 maintain steerage, and in no case greater than five miles per  
32 hour.

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

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

5 [For text of subps 3 to 6, see M.R.]

6 Subp. 7. Lighting equipment. Lighting equipment:

7 A. All motorized watercraft must display the correct  
8 lights for their class from sunset to sunrise when underway or  
9 at anchor.

10 Red and green lights must be visible at a distance of one  
11 mile and white lights at a distance of two miles.

12 B. The following terms are defined for the purpose of  
13 these rules:

14 (1) "Aft" means to the rear of the midlength  
15 measured from end to end of the hull over the deck excluding  
16 sheer.

17 (2) "All-round light" means a white light visible  
18 in an unbroken horizontal arc of 360 degrees.

19 (3) "Combination light" means a single fixture  
20 showing green to starboard and red to port, visible in an  
21 unbroken horizontal arc from dead ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft  
22 the beam on its respective side.

23 (4) "Forward" means forward of the midlength  
24 measured from end to end of the hull over the deck excluding  
25 sheer.

26 (5) "Masthead light" means a white light visible  
27 in an unbroken horizontal arc of 225 degrees, placed at or near  
28 the centerline of the watercraft. The light must be visible  
29 from dead ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on both sides of  
30 the watercraft. On motorboats less than 40 feet in length, this  
31 light must be at least three feet higher than the red and green  
32 lights. On motorboats 40 feet or more in length, this light  
33 must be at least nine feet above the gunwale.

34 (6) "Side lights" means separate fixtures, the  
35 one on the starboard side showing green and the one on the port  
36 side showing red, visible in an unbroken horizontal arc from

1 dead ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on its respective side.

2 (7) "At the stem and at the stern" means as  
3 nearly as practicable at the stem and at the stern, respectively.

4 (8) "Stern light" means a white light placed at  
5 the stern, visible in an unbroken horizontal arc of 135 degrees.  
6 The light must be visible from dead astern to 22.5 degrees abaft  
7 the beam on both sides of the watercraft.

8 (9) "Visible," when applied to lights, means  
9 visible on a dark night with clear atmosphere. The prescribed  
10 visibility means minimum visibility, and does not restrict  
11 greater distance of visibility, provided that the navigation  
12 lights are primarily intended for navigation purposes and will  
13 not be confused with other lights.

14 C. The lighting system on each watercraft must be  
15 chosen from either subitem (1) or (2):

16 (1) Motorboats less than 40 feet in length must  
17 display the following:

18 (a) a combination light or separate  
19 sidelights and an all-round light at the stern when underway and  
20 not anchored; and

21 (b) an all-round light when anchored.

22 (2) Motorboats of any length must display the  
23 following:

24 (a) a combination light or separate  
25 sidelights, a masthead light, and a stern light when underway  
26 and not anchored; and

27 (b) an all-round light when anchored.

28 D. All nonmotorized watercraft when under way or  
29 anchored, between sunset and sunrise, shall carry aboard but not  
30 necessarily fixed to any part of the watercraft a minimum of one  
31 lantern or flashlight capable of showing a white light visible  
32 all around the horizon at a distance of two miles or more. The  
33 light or lantern shall be displayed in sufficient time to avoid  
34 collision with another watercraft.

35 E. When a watercraft is moored to a buoy authorized  
36 by a permit issued under part 6110.1800 it shall not be required

1 to display the anchor light required in items C and D.

2 6110.1400 CAPACITY PLATE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS FOR WATERCRAFT  
3 CONSTRUCTED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 1, 1980.

4 [For text of subps 1 and 2, see M.R.]

5 Subp. 3. **Definitions.** The terms "safe power capacity" and  
6 "safe carrying capacity" used in Minnesota Statutes, section  
7 86B.311, subdivision 1, shall be that capacity displayed on the  
8 manufacturer's capacity plate. If no such plate exists, the  
9 method referred to in either part 6110.1300, items B and C, or  
10 6110.1400, subpart 2 shall be used to determine the capacity.

11 6110.1500 WATERWAY MARKERS.

12 [For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]

13 Subp. 2. **Channel marker buoys.** Channel marker buoys:

14 A. Every channel marker buoy shall have the external  
15 form of a cylinder having a circular transverse cross-section  
16 not less than nine inches in diameter. Channel markers must  
17 extend at least 36 inches above the water.

18 B. Where channel marker buoys are placed to indicate  
19 the location of a well defined boating channel, an all green  
20 buoy and an all red buoy shall be placed in opposition to each  
21 other to indicate the course of the channel is located between  
22 them. The red buoy or marker shall be situated on the right  
23 side of the channel when heading towards shore, or when heading  
24 upstream. A green flashing light shall be used in conjunction  
25 with a green buoy if it is to be lighted. When reflectorization  
26 is used with a green buoy, it shall be green in color and no  
27 less than a three-inch wide strip shall completely surround the  
28 buoy and shall be located at the top of the buoy. Number  
29 designations shall be odd. A red flashing light shall be used  
30 in conjunction with a red buoy if it is to be lighted. When  
31 reflectorization is used with a red buoy, it shall be red in  
32 color and no less than a three-inch wide strip shall completely  
33 surround the buoy and shall be located at the top of the buoy.  
34 Number designations shall be even.

35 [For text of subps 3 and 4, see M.R.]

1 Subp. 5. Regulatory and information signs and buoys.

2 Regulatory and information signs and buoys:

3 [For text of items A to F, see M.R.]

4 G. No person shall operate any motor vehicle,  
5 snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, ice boat, or any other  
6 conveyance used to transport persons over the ice on public  
7 waters of the state within 150 feet of a diver's warning flag  
8 described in Minnesota Statutes, section 86B.601.

9 [For text of items H and I, see M.R.]

10 J. Any sign may be reflectorized or fluorescent  
11 provided that the entire displayed surface is uniformly  
12 reflectorized or fluorescent.

13 [For text of item K, see M.R.]

14 Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

15 Subp. 7. Milfoil areas. Buoys or signs indicating an area  
16 that is infested with Eurasian water milfoil may be marked using  
17 a solid yellow sign or buoy. If a buoy is used, it shall be no  
18 less than four inches in diameter and extend at least 30 inches  
19 above the surface of the water. The words "Milfoil" or Milfoil  
20 Area" must appear on opposing sides of the buoy in at least  
21 two-inch high black letters. If a sign is used, it shall be no  
22 more than 12 inches in width or more than 18 inches in height  
23 and extend at least 30 inches above the surface of the water at  
24 normal high water level. The words "Milfoil" or "Milfoil Area"  
25 must appear on the sign in at least two-inch high black letters.

26 Subp. 8. Exceptions. Whenever an emergency situation  
27 requires that immediate warning be given of a hazardous  
28 condition, any appropriate marker may be used until such time as  
29 the emergency ceases to exist or until a marker complying with  
30 these rules can be obtained. In addition, the commissioner or  
31 designee may exempt specific types of waterway markers or buoys  
32 from the dimensional requirements of this part where safety  
33 would not be adversely affected and may also designate buoys or  
34 markers for purposes not previously set forth in this part.

35 6110.1800 PLACEMENT OF TEMPORARY STRUCTURES AND BUOYS IN THE

1 WATERS OF THE STATE.

2 [For text of subpart 1, see M.R.]

3 Subp. 2. Permit for temporary structure or buoy. The  
4 sheriff of any county may issue a permit for the placement of  
5 any such structure or buoy whenever, in the sheriff's opinion,  
6 the structure or buoy will not constitute an undue hazard to or  
7 illegal obstruction of navigation.

8 Each structure or navigational buoy placed pursuant to such  
9 permit shall have the permit number painted on it and shall have  
10 attached either a light visible in all directions, or sufficient  
11 reflectorized material so as to reflect light from all  
12 directions, which material shall retain 80 percent of its dry  
13 weather reflective signal strength when submerged in water.

14 Nothing in this part shall be construed to affect the  
15 provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.245, or the  
16 requirements for permits from the commissioner of natural  
17 resources thereunder, nor shall this part be construed to affect  
18 the construction of blinds built according to Minnesota  
19 Statutes, sections 97B.805 and 97B.811.

20 6110.1900 REPORTS.

21 Subpart 1. Accident reports. Each county sheriff shall  
22 report to the commissioner of natural resources:

23 A. each watercraft accident involving either a  
24 fatality, personal injury requiring treatment beyond first aid,  
25 or property damage that totals more than \$500; and

26 B. all drownings.

27 Reports shall be submitted on forms provided by the  
28 commissioner and forwarded within ten days of the accident.

29 Subp. 2. Other reports. Each county sheriff shall  
30 maintain copies of watercraft citations or written warnings and  
31 rental boat inspection reports for a minimum of three years  
32 following the year in which they were issued or completed.

33 6110.2100 REIMBURSEMENT OF COUNTY SHERIFFS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE  
34 OPERATIONS.

35 Payments for annual appropriations for search and rescue

1 operations shall be made pursuant to the provisions hereof in  
2 order of presentation until expended.

3 A search and rescue operation resulting from or related to  
4 water-related recreational activities will qualify for  
5 reimbursement if the incident necessitating the operation is of  
6 an unusual and nonrecurring nature. Reimbursable items of  
7 expense are those which are over and above the sheriff's regular  
8 operating budget, and include rental of private equipment and  
9 employment of personnel hired expressly for the search and  
10 rescue operation.

11 Payment by the state is limited to 50 percent of the  
12 reimbursable items of expense, subject to maximum state payment  
13 of \$2,500 for each search and rescue operation.

14 A sheriff claiming reimbursement shall submit in duplicate  
15 an itemized invoice, verified by the county auditor, together  
16 with a statement showing that the operation qualified for  
17 reimbursement, to the Department of Natural Resources. All  
18 claims will be subject to audit by the state.

19 REPEALER. Minnesota Rules, parts 6110.1500, subpart 6 and  
20 6110.1600, subpart 3, are repealed.