



In the Netherlands

Rules for safe and fast boating

There are rules for traffic on the water, rules that every skipper must know so that he or she boat solely and understand what other skippers are doing. Rules are necessary to ensure safe navigation. They help to prevent accidents, reckless behaviour and disruptions. In addition, the environment also benefits from these traffic rules. Chapter 8 of the Inland Waterways Police Regulation (BPR) – which also applies to waterways subject to the Rhine Navigation Police Regulations (RPR areas) – contains important information for fast motorboats. Owners of fast motorboats must pay special attention to these rules. Read more about them in this folder.

What is a fast motorboat?

A fast motorboat is a small boat, shorter than 20 metres, which can travel faster than 20 kilometres an hour. This also includes personal watercrafts (PWC).

Please note: The minimum age for driving a fast motorboat is 18. These skippers of a small, open motorboat less than 7 m long with a maximum speed of 13 km an hour on the water must be at least 12 years old. An adult in a small rubber boat with, for example, 4 hp, will probably not go faster than 20 km an hour, but a child in that same boat may perhaps go that fast. In that case, your child may not accompany you.

Waterskiing/ wakeboarding

Waterskiing and wakeboarding are allowed only in specially indicated areas. When waterskiing, the boat must be manned by the skipper and a second person who is at least 15 years old and who continually keeps a watch on the immediate surroundings and the skiers. Waterskiing may not result in danger or hinder for others. The same rules that apply to cruising with a fast motorboat also apply to waterskiing.



Regulations

The skipper

The skipper of a fast motorboat/PWC must:

- Be capable of safely steering the vessel.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have a valid cruising license. A Klein Vaarbewijs deel I (International Certificate of Competence I) is sufficient for most inland waterways. For the major national waterways, the Klein Vaarbewijs deel II (International Certificate of Competence ICRUISEI) is required. This last category includes the Oosterschelde, the Westerschelde, the IJsselmeer, the Markermeer, the Wadden Sea, the Eems and the Dollard. The VAMEX provides more information about acquiring a certificate of competence (www.vamex.nl).
- Sit in the skipper's seat when driving.
- Wear a lifejacket when he or she drives a fast motorboat while standing up unless the boat is otherwise designed. Those operating a pwc must always wear a lifejacket.
- Avoid annoying or endangering other people on the water.
- Obey the speed limits, which are usually posted or can be found on official navigation maps.
- Prevent the engine of his or her boat from making unnecessary noise or from operating unnecessarily when the boat is stationary.
- Obey the rules for alcohol consumption. In 2010, the allowed blood alcohol level was reduced to 0,5 pro mille.
- Have a registration certificate for his or her boat. This certificate can be requested at the Department of Waterways (RDW) in Veendam, via the website www.rdw.nl and at every TNT Post Office that also issues vehicle registrations. At www.rdw.nl you can find more information and the request form, which can be downloaded. The registration certificate is required for boats smaller than 20 m that can cruise faster than 20 km an hour.

If you sell your fast motorboat, the new owner must transfer ownership to his or her own name. Transferring the registration certificate from one person to another can be done via the Department of Waterways or at a TNT Post Office. This transferral is sometimes overlooked. No certificates of indemnification are issued for fast motorboats.

On 1 April 2011 a new RDW registration certificate in the form of a plastic card the size of a credit card was introduced. Paper registration certificates issued before 1 April 2011 remain valid.

The boat: design and equipment

- There must be a registration number (the so-called Y number) on both sides of the boat. This must be clearly visible and in a colour different than the colour of the boat and its size must comply with the legal measurements described in chapter 8 of the BPR.
- The engine must be technically in order so that it does not produce (dense) smoke and there is no danger of fire or an explosion.
- There must be an effective muffler on the engine's exhaust that meets the valid regulations about noise nuisance.
- The steering mechanism must be well constructed and functional.
- The boat must have a switch to kill the engine (dead man's switch) and automatically stop the engine if the skipper becomes ill or falls overboard.
- There must be a lifejacket within reach of every passenger.
- There must be a ready-to-use and approved (every two years) fire extinguisher on board.
- The skipper's licence, the boat's registration certificate and the BPR (digital is also allowed) must be on board. The BPR does not have to be on board a small, open boat.
- There must be a suitable boat's horn or horn on board to give audio signals.
- It is also advisable to carry a paddle and a ready-to-use anchor suitable for the type and weight of the boat.

A special folder with an inventory of equipment on board can be found at www.varendoejesamen.nl

Map of high speed areas

There is a national maximum speed of 20 km an hour for fast motorboats on the water unless traffic signs on shore and official navigation maps indicate otherwise. Be aware that other speeds may apply in certain cruising areas and nature reserve areas. You can download a map showing the fast-cruising areas at www.varendoejesamen.nl. This map shows:

- The speed limits that apply to the various waterways.
- Where water-skiing is allowed.
- In which zones you can sail quickly with a water scooter.

Slower than 20 km an hour

The skipper of a fast motorboat must avoid bothering or endangering other people on the water. Fast motorboats must reduce their speed considerably in the following areas:

- Within 20 m from shore unless signs indicate otherwise.
- Within 50 m from a swimming area or landing stage.
- Near matches, water parties, demonstrations or similar events.
- If visibility is less than 500 m (for example, in fog or rain).
- In a harbour.
- At night (unless there is an official exemption).
- Within 100 m of the entrance to a harbour.
- Near ferries.



Rules for fast motorboats

- Be considerate of others – also swimmers – who want to enjoy the water and avoid making irritating waves.
- Be aware of commercial vessels, especially of the waves and suction that these vessels can make and of the large blind angle that can be as big as 350 m.
- Obey the speed limits.
- Avoid conflicts with others on the water.
- Respect nature and the environment.
- Launch your boat only where allowed and be aware of passing boats.
- Know and apply the rules.
- Have the required safety equipment on board.
- Have your boat insured. This is in everyone's interest.
- Keep your registration certificate, cruising license and proof of identity within reach.
- Use your common sense rather than your horsepower.

There are not many boating accidents. Help to maintain that. Safe journey!

Going quickly is great, but c too quickly, young people who go too fast and water scooters are often in the ‘Top 10 irritations on the water’. Unfortunately, those who go quickly don't enjoy a good reputation everywhere. Set a good example and obey the rules!

Maintaining the rules

Waterway supervisors such as the Department of Waterways, the KLPD (national police) and the harbour police maintain the rules on the large national waterways. The provinces, district water boards and the regional police do the same on regional and local waterways. They pay special attention to cruising behaviour, registration certificates and the use of alcohol. Special investigators are authorised to issue fines for violations. And the police also carry out alcohol tests.

Tips for recreational vessels

1. Prepare your trip

Take updated navigation maps with you on board. Listen to the weather forecasts and, if not necessary, don't cruise if there is poor visibility or it is dark. Safely secure everything in bad weather.

2. Blind area commercial vessels

Skippers of commercial vessels can sometimes have problems seeing because of the blind area of their ship. This angle can be as big as 350 m, the equivalent of 3 football fields in a row! Adjust your course and speed so that you stay out of the blind area. Although it is no guarantee, if you can see the skipper's hut on the ship, the skipper should also be able to see you!

3. Clear course

Clearly indicate your course. Cross a waterway or channel as fast as possible by cruising in a straight line. In a channel, canal or river keep to starboard side as much as possible and look behind you often. Don't cruise in the middle of the waterway.

4. Rules for the blue sign

If a ship is displaying a blue sign with a white, blinking light, try to pass on the side of the blue sign if traffic permits this. Think ahead so you can react quickly. You can find a special folder on the blue sign at www.varendoejesamen.nl.

5. Reduce speed

Reduce speed on time so that other ships are not hindered by the waves from your bow or stern.

6. Radio telephone (VHF)

If you have a radio telephone, you are required to listen to it. Cruise with your VHF radio on and tuned to channel 10. Use the information to avoid dangerous situations. In maritime block areas, such as at traffic stations, locks and bridges, the appropriate radio telephone channel applies.

7. Warning signal in case of danger

Warn other ships of danger by giving a long blast on the horn.

8. Yield to commercial vessels

Keep as much as possible on the starboard side of the waterway and stay away from commercial vessels. Give them room to manoeuvre in curves and in harbours!!

9. See and be seen

Make sure you are always clearly visible, be sure you can see all around you and that you can hear the audio signals of other ships.

10. Fast and safe in a lock

Make sure that you can moor on both port and starboard sides in a lock. Put enough fenders and mooring ropes on both sides of your boat before you enter a lock. If you have to wait in front of a lock, don't cruise in circles or wait in the middle in front of the lock since this may hinder other boats; instead, moor your boat in a waiting area. Cruise into the lock in the order of arrival and close up the line of boats.



Wie verhalten Sie sich bei großen Schwierigkeiten oder im Katastrophenfall?

- IJsselmeer en de Veluwerandmeren: Auf dem IJsselmeer und den Veluwe Randmeren können Sie Kontakt zur Zentralen Meldestelle IJsselmeergebied aufnehmen, entweder über den UKW-Schiffsfunkkanal 1 oder über die Rufnummer +31 320-261111.
- Auf dem Wattenmeer und Ems-Dollart zur Zentralen Meldestelle Wattenmeer über den UKW-Schiffs-funkkanal 4 oder über die Rufnummer +31 562 443100.
- In der Region Süd-Holland (Zuid Holland) zum Verkehrsposten in Dordrecht über Schiffsfunkkanal 71 oder +31 800 023 6200.
- In der Region Nord-Holland zum Verkehrsposten Schellingwoude über Schiffsfunkkanal 60 oder +31 20 69461 16.
- In der Region Utrecht zum Verkehrsposten Wijk bij Duurstede über Schiffsfunkkanal 60 oder +31 343 595 111.
- In der Region Ost-Niederlande zum Verkehrsposten Nimwegen über Schiffsfunkkanal 64 oder über die Rufnummer +31 24 343 5610, oder zum Verkehrsposten Tiel über Schiffsfunkkanal 64 oder über die Rufnummer +31 344 619672.
- In Seeland für die Region Oosterschelde zum Verkehrsposten Wemeldinge über Schiffsfunkkanal 68 oder über die Rufnummer +31 113 622 110.
- Für die Westerschelderegion zum Verkehrsposten Vlissingen über Schiffsfunkkanal 14 oder über die Rufnummer +31 118 424 790.
- In Limburg und Nord-Brabant zum Nautischen Zentrum in Heel unter der Rufnummer +31 800 0341.

Diese Broschüre wird im Rahmen des Projektes „Zusammen fahren“ herausgegeben! Sie ist ein Bestandteil einer Serie informativer Ausgaben zum Thema „Sicher fahren“.

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Questions? Go to www.safeboating.eu and www.varendoejesamen.nl

