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PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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CHAPTER 250

OREGON STATE MARINE BOARD

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ARCHIVES DIVISION SECRETARY OF STATE & LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Personal Floatation Device

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RULES:
250-010-0010, 250-010-0154, 250-015-0010, 250-021-0030

AMEND: 250-010-0010

RULE TITLE: Definitions

NOTICE FILED DATE: 08/05/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Updated OARs to reflect federal regulations regarding personal flotation devices.

RULE TEXT:
As used in OAR Chapter 250, unless otherwise required by context:
(1) "Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit" is an authorization issued by the Oregon State Marine Board or through designated agents that certifies payment to the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund.
(2) "Black Waste" means human body wastes including feces, urine, other substances of bodily origin, and toilet paper.
(3) "Board" means the Oregon State Marine Board.
(4) "Boat Livery" means a person, persons, or a business establishment engaged in renting or hiring out boats for profit.
(5) "Eleemosynary" means an organization supported by gifts or charity which is operated primarily as a part of organized activities for the purpose of teaching youth's scout craft, camping, seamanship, self-reliance, patriotism,

courage and kindred virtues.
(6) "Float Tube" means a manufactured floating device constructed of canvas, nylon or other similar material encasing an inner tube capable of supporting one person sitting inside with their legs dangling below the vessel, used as a means of transportation on the water. Single float tubes are boats as defined in ORS 830.005(2) and if powered by machinery, single float tubes are motorboats as defined in ORS 830.005(5) and subject to numbering according to OAR 250-010-0040.
(7) “Kiteboard” means a vessel with no freeboard that is propelled by a sail or sail-like device that is not attached to the vessel but held and manipulated by the operator. These vessels include those common for kiteboarding, wingfoiling, and kitefoiling.
(8) "Nonmotorized boat" means any watercraft as defined in ORS 830.005(2), but not a motorboat as defined in 830.005(6).
(9) "Operator" means the person who operates or who has charge of the navigation or use of a boat.
(10) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, corporation, association, or other entity.
(11) "Person on Board" means every person being carried on board or being towed by a vessel.
(12) “Portable Toilet” means all types of portable containers, hand carried potties, buckets or similar devices used to collect black waste into a small receptacle.
(13) "Propel" means but is not limited to floating, rowing, paddling, sailing or otherwise operating a boat (as defined in ORS 830.005), a vessel or ship.
(14) “Sailboard” means a sail propelled vessel with no freeboard and equipped with a swivel mounted mast not secured to a hull by guys or stays.
(15) "Sewage" means water-carried human and animal wastes and may include but is not solely kitchen, bath, and laundry wastes from residences, buildings, boats or other places.
(16) "Ship's Lifeboats" means lifeboats used solely for lifesaving purposes and does not include dinghies, tenders, speedboats, or other types of craft carried aboard a vessel and used for other than lifesaving purposes.
(17) “Slow-No Wake” means operating a boat at the slowest speed necessary to maintain steerage and that reduces or eliminates waves that appear as white water behind the boat.
(18) "Throwable Personal Flotation Device (PFD)” means a PFD that is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, in serviceable condition and intended to be thrown to a person in the water. A PFD marked as Type IV or Type V with Type IV performance is considered a throwable PFD; unless specifically marked, a wearable PFD is not a throwable PFD.
(19) “Type I Marine Sanitation Device” means a device installed on board a boat that is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage or black waste, which produces an effluent having a fecal coliform bacteria count not greater than 1,000 per 100 ml and no visible floating solids.
(20) “Type II Marine Sanitation Device” means a device installed on board a boat that is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage or black waste, which produces an effluent having a fecal coliform bacteria count not greater than 200 per 100 ml and suspended solids not greater than 150 mg/L.
(21) “Type III Marine Sanitation Device” means a device installed on board a boat that is designed to receive, retain, treat, or discharge sewage or black waste, which is designed to prevent the overboard discharge of treated or untreated sewage or any waste derived from sewage. These include but are not limited to a holding tank with a means of pumping the sewage into a land-based Oregon Department of Environmental Quality approved wastewater treatment system.
(22) "Undocumented Vessel" means any vessel which is not required to have, or does not have, a valid marine document issued by the U.S. Coast Guard.
(23) "Underway" means when a boat is not at anchor, or moored, or made fast to the shore, or aground.
(24) “Wakeboarding” means the activity of towing a person who is attached with two foot bindings on equipment similar to a short surfboard or snowboard. Equipment used in this activity may include but is not limited to wake boards.
(25) “Wake surfing” means the activity of propelling a person, on equipment similar to a surfboard, forward with a boat’s wake. The person may be holding a rope or free riding. Equipment used in this activity may include but is not limited to wake surf boards, wake boards, stand up paddleboards, and hydrofoils.

(26) "Waterway Access Permit" is an authorization issued by the Oregon State Marine Board or through designated agents that certifies payment to the Waterway Access Fund.
(27) “Wearable Personal Flotation Device (PFD)” means a PFD that is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, in serviceable condition, the right size for the person and approved for the activity. A wearable PFD is intended to be worn or otherwise attached to the body. A PFD marked as Type I, Type II, Type III, or Type V with Type (I, II, or III) performance is considered a wearable PFD. A PFD that is marked with performance levels 50, 70, 100, 150, or 275 is also considered a wearable PFD.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 830.110

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 830.110

AMEND: 250-010-0154

RULE TITLE: Personal Flotation Devices

NOTICE FILED DATE: 08/05/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Updated OAR to match federal regulations regarding personal flotation devices.

RULE TEXT:
(1) A person must not operate a boat on the waters of this state unless:
(a) At least one wearable Personal Flotation Device (PFD) is on board for each person; and
(b) Each PFD is used in accordance with any requirements on the approved label; and
(c) Each PFD is used in accordance with any requirements in its owner's manual, if the approved label refers to such a manual.
(2) A person must not operate a boat 16 feet or more in length unless one throwable PFD is on board in addition to the total number of wearable PFDs required in section (1) of this rule.
(3) A person must not operate a boat on the waters of this state with a child age 12 and under, unless the child is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, of the appropriate size, while the boat is underway. For the purpose of ORS 830.215, a personal flotation device shall not be considered "readily accessible" for children age 12 and under unless the device is worn while the boat is underway. The PFD must be worn at all times by a child age 12 and under whenever the boat is underway and the child is on an open deck or open cockpit of the vessel. The following circumstances are exempted:
(a) While the child is below deck, or in the cabin of a boat with enclosed cabin.
(b) While a child is on a sailboat and tethered by means of a lifeline or harness attached to the sailboat.
(c) While a child is on a U.S. Coast Guard inspected passenger-carrying vessel operating on the navigable waters of the United States.
(4) A person must not operate a personal watercraft (PWC), as defined in OAR 250-021-0020, unless each person operating or riding on the vessel is wearing a(n) foam filled U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD that does not have a limitation or restriction on its approval that would prevent its use on a PWC.
(5) A properly secured wearable PFD must be worn by persons in a boat while navigating sections of river with a commonly accepted scale of river difficulty rated Class III or higher. The personal flotation devices worn by boaters must:
(a) Be approved by the U.S. Coast Guard as a wearable personal flotation device.
(b) Not have a limitation or restriction on its approval that would prevent its use on whitewater rivers.
(c) Not be an inflatable personal flotation device.
(6) Exemptions:
(a) Canoes and kayaks 16 feet in length and over are exempted from the requirements for carriage of the additional throwable PFD.
(b) Racing shells, rowing sculls, racing canoes and racing kayaks are exempted from the requirements for carriage of any PFD. Racing shells, rowing sculls, racing canoes, and racing kayaks are manually propelled vessels that are recognized by national or international racing associations for use in competitive racing an in which all occupants row, scull, or paddle, with the exception of a coxswain, if one is provided, and are not designed to carry and do not carry any equipment not solely for competitive racing.
(c) Sailboards are exempted from the requirements for carriage of any PFD.
(d) Float tubes as defined in OAR 250-010-0010 are exempted from the requirements for carriage of any PFD.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 830.215

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 830.215

AMEND: 250-015-0010

RULE TITLE: Equipment Requirements for Charter Boats and Charter Guides

NOTICE FILED DATE: 08/05/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Updated effective dates for (1)(b), (h), (3)(e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) to be compliant with federal rules regarding personal flotation devices.

RULE TEXT:
(1) The following requirements apply to Charter Boats operating on US navigable waters:
(a) Navigation Lights as prescribed in Title 33 CFR 83.20 – 83.31 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), effective 01/01/2016.
(b) Personal Flotation Devices as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 180.71 – 180.72, effective 01/06/2025.
(c) Life Jacket Lights as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 180.75, effective 01/01/2016.
(d) Visual Distress Signals as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 180.68, effective 01/01/2016.
(e) Distress Signals Storage as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 185.614, effective 01/01/2016.
(f) Sound Signals as prescribed in Title 33 CFR 86.33, effective 01/01/2016.
(g) Survival Craft as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 180.200, effective 01/01/2016.
(h) Life Saving Equipment Markings as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 185.604, effective 10/31/2008.
(i) Merchant Marine Credential (MMC) as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 15.401, effective 01/01/2016.
(j) Charts and Publications as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 130.330, effective 01/01/2016.
(k) First Aid Kits as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 184.710, effective 01/01/2016.
(l) EPIRB as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 180.64, effective 01/01/2016.
(m) Life Ring Buoys as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 180.70, effective 01/01/2016.
(n) Fire Extinguishers as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 181.500 to 181.520, effective 08/22/2016.
(o) Bilge Pumps as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 182.520, effective 01/01/2016.
(p) Bilge High Level Alarm as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 182.530, effective 01/01/2016.
(q) Ground Tackle and Mooring Lines as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 184.300, effective 01/01/2016.
(r) Compasses as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 184.402, effective 01/01/2016.
(s) Radar as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 184.404, effective 01/01/2016.
(t) Passenger Safety Orientation as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 185.506 effective 01/01/2016.
(u) Electronic Position Fixing as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 184.410, effective 01/01/2016.
(v) Emergency Instructions Placard as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 185.510, effective 01/01/2016.
(w) Vessel Radio Equipment as prescribed in Title 47 CFR 80.905(a)(1) & (2), effective 01/01/2016.
(2) Any discrepancies with the equipment requirements as outlined in (1)(a)-(w) are satisfied in favor of the Titles and Parts of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as stated on 01/01/2016.
(3) The following requirements apply to Charter Guides defined in ORS 704.010(1) operating on US navigable waters:
(a) Navigation Lights as prescribed in Title 33 CFR 83.20 – 83.31, effective 01/01/2016.
(b) Sound Signals as prescribed in Title 33 CFR 83.33, effective 01/01/2016.
(c) Visual Distress Signals as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.25.19, effective 01/01/2016.
(d) MMC Employment and Service as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 15.401, effective 01/01/2016.
(e) Personal Flotation Devices as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.25-5, effective 01/06/2025.
(f) Personal Flotation Device Lights as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.25-13, effective 09/30/1997.
(g) Retroreflective Material for Personal Flotation Devices as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.25-15, effective 09/30/1997.
(h) Life Ring as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.25-5(b)(3), effective 12/06/2024.
(i) Lifesaving equipment accessibility as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.25-9(b), effective 09/10/2014.
(j) Fire Extinguishers as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.30-1 to 25.30-80 , effective 01/18/2017.
(k) Backfire Flame Control as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.35-1, effective 01/01/2016.

(l) Ventilation as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 25.40, effective 01/01/2016.
(m) Safety Orientation as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 26.03-1, effective 01/01/2016.
(n) Emergency Instructions Placard as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 26.03-2, effective 01/01/2016.
(o) Charts and Publications as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 26.03-4, effective 01/01/2016.
(p) Exhibition of MMC as prescribed in Title 46 CFR 26.20-1, effective 01/01/2016.
(4) Any discrepancies with the equipment requirements as outlined in (3)(a)-(p) are satisfied in favor of the Titles and Parts of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as stated on 01/01/2016.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 830.437, ORS 830.450, ORS 830.420

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 830.450

AMEND: 250-021-0030

RULE TITLE: Operating Rules

NOTICE FILED DATE: 08/05/2026

RULE SUMMARY: Updated OARs to match federal rules regarding personal flotation devices.

RULE TEXT:
(1) A person must not operate a personal watercraft unless each person operating or riding on such vessel is wearing a(n) foam filled U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD) as defined in OAR 250-010-0010.
(2) A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard type engine cutoff switch must attach such lanyard to their person, clothing, or personal flotation device.
(3) A person must not operate a personal watercraft unless it is effectively muffled in accordance with OAR 250-010-0121.
(4) A person must not operate a personal watercraft at any time between sunset and sunrise unless equipped with lights as prescribed in OAR Chapter 250, Division 011.
(5) Every personal watercraft shall at all times be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. Maneuvers which unreasonably or unnecessarily endanger life, limb or property, including but not limited to weaving through congested vessel traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to said vessel or when visibility around said vessel is obstructed, and swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision shall constitute unsafe or reckless operation of a vessel, as provided in ORS 830.305 or 830.315.
(6) The provisions of section (5) of this rule do not apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or a person preparing to participate or participating in an officially sanctioned regatta, race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition.
(7) A person must not operate a personal watercraft in excess of a slow-no wake speed:
(a) Within 200 feet of a boat launch ramp, dock, swim float, pier, marina or moorage, floating home or boathouse, or locations where persons are working at water levels on floats, logs or waterway construction;
(b) Within 200 feet of a swimmer, surfer, diving flag, bank or wading angler;
(c) Within 100 feet of any anchored or non-motorized vessel;
(d) Except on safe take-offs and landings, a person must not operate a personal watercraft in excess of a slow-no wake speed within 200 feet of shoreline on all lakes, bays and reservoirs. A safe take-off or landing will not be considered "safe" unless it can be accomplished without risk to any swimmer or craft within 200 feet from shoreline.
(8) A person must not operate a personal watercraft in excess of 10 MPH when approaching within 100' of another motorized or sail vessel underway.
(9) A person must not operate a personal watercraft within 200 feet directly behind a water skier being towed.
(10) A person must not tow a water skier or any floating device with a personal watercraft unless:
(a) Another person on the personal watercraft is continuously observing the person being towed; and
(b) The personal watercraft is large enough to carry operator, observer and the person being towed; and
(c) The personal watercraft is equipped with a "skier-down" flag to be held aloft when the skier or person being towed is down in the water; and
(d) The personal watercraft is being operated between sunrise and sunset.
(11) Personal watercraft may be used to tow another vessel when rendering assistance.
(12) A person under the age of 16 must not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of this state, unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older on board, or as provided in OAR 250-021-0036.
(13) A person who owns a personal watercraft or who has charge over or control of a personal watercraft must not authorize or knowingly permit that personal watercraft to be operated by a person under 16 years of age, unless accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older, or as provided in OAR 250-021-0036.
(14) A person must not rent a personal watercraft to a person under the age of 18.

(15) A person must not chase, harass, molest, worry or disturb any wildlife with a personal watercraft except while engaged in lawfully angling for, hunting or trapping such wildlife (ORS 498.006).

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 830.110, ORS 830.175, ORS 830.195, ORS 830.250

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: