

Who can operate boat:

As added by P.L.57-1995, SEC.8.

All motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid driver's license to operate on all Indiana public waters.

Motorboat operators who are 15 years of age may operate a motorboat or PWC until they become a licensed driver only if they complete a boater education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board an ID card issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

A person who has never been licensed by the BMV must complete an approved boater education course successfully and have on board an ID issued by the Indiana BMV to operate a motorboat legally.

No one under 15 years of age may legally operate a motorboat greater than 10 horsepower or a PWC.

If you operate your motorboat recklessly while intoxicated or break the PWC laws, you could have points assessed against your vehicle driver's license.

On Indiana boundary waters, Indiana residents are required to have a driver's license. Non-residents are not required to have a license unless operating in an embayment, river, or stream in Indiana.

Life vest requirements:

Specific PFD Requirements

Indiana law requires the following with respect to personal flotation devices (life jackets).

- All vessels must carry one wearable (Type I, II, III, or V) USCG-approved PFD for each person on board or being towed.
- In addition to the above requirement, vessels 16 feet in length or longer (except a canoe or kayak) must have one Type IV USCG-approved PFD on board and readily accessible.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and be readily accessible. The PFDs must be of the proper size for the intended wearer. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
- Each person on board a personal watercraft must **wear** a PFD.

- All persons being towed behind a PWC on water skis or any other device must **wear** a USCG–approved PFD. Ski belts are not USCG–approved.
- In addition to the requirements above, on Waters of Concurrent Jurisdiction:
 - A child under 13 years of age must wear a PFD except when the child is below deck in an enclosed cabin or the vessel is docked or at anchor.
 - Anyone towed on water skis, a surfboard, a kite, or similar device must wear a Type I, II, or III PFD (Type V PFDs are not approved for these activities).