

Laws and regulations concerning small craft

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WATERBORNE TRAFFIC LAW concerning boats in Finland

- Goal: to promote safety and minimize harms
- **RECREATIONAL USE:**
- Users: No driver licence, but
 - minimum age of 15 years (if the engine power exceeds 20 hp),
 - Sufficient skills knowledge for the conditions
- Product safety: Recreational craft directive
- TRAFI (Finnish transport safety agency) carries out market surveillance
- **COMMERCIAL USE:**
- Licences, yearly inspections of safety equipments
- Product safety depending on use and size: Classification societies, National Workboat rules or Recreational craft directive

EU: Recreational craft directives (RCD)

- Before 1996, each European country had national regulations (mandatory or voluntary, very different in extent)
- Directive 94/25/EY came into force 16.6.1996, transition period ended 16.6.1998
- Amendment 2003/44/EY, which came into force 1.1.2005. New regulations for environmental effects (exhaust gases, noise)
- New version 2013/53/EU came out 2015, transition period ends 2017. Mainly administrative changes
- CE-marking of boats compulsory in EU

- Scope of application:
 - (a) recreational craft and partly completed recreational craft having hull length 2,5 – 24 m
 - (b) personal watercraft and partly completed personal watercraft;
 - (c) components listed in Annex II when placed on the Union market separately, hereinafter referred to as 'components';
 - (d) propulsion engines which are installed or specifically intended for installation on or in watercraft;
 - (e) propulsion engines installed on or in watercraft that are subject to a major engine modification;
 - (f) watercraft that are subject to major craft conversion.

The Directive shall not apply to the following products:

- (i) watercraft intended solely for racing, including rowing racing boats and training rowing boats, labelled as such by the manufacturer; EN 28.12.2013 Official Journal of the European Union L 354/95
- (ii) canoes and kayaks designed to be propelled solely by human power, gondolas and pedalos;
- (iii) surfboards designed solely to be propelled by wind and to be operated by a person or persons standing;
- (iv) surfboards;
- (v) original historical watercraft and individual replicas thereof designed before 1950, built predominantly with the original materials and labelled as such by the manufacturer;
- (vi) experimental watercraft, provided that they are not placed on the Union market;
- (vii) watercraft built for own use, provided that they are not subsequently placed on the Union market during a period of five years from the putting into service of the watercraft;
- (viii) watercraft specifically intended to be crewed and to carry passengers for commercial purposes, without prejudice to paragraph 3, regardless of the number of passengers;
- (ix) submersibles;
- (x) air cushion vehicles;
- (xi) hydrofoils;
- (xii) external combustion steam powered watercraft, fuelled by coal, coke, wood, oil or gas;
- (xiii) amphibious vehicles, i.e. wheeled or track-laying motor vehicles, which are able to operate both on water and on solid land;

RCD

- Referring to EN (ISO) harmonised standards
- Market surveillance bodies (in Finland TraFi) and the competitors look after compliance
- Conformity assessment can be done by
 - a Notified Body (NB, 3rd party, modules B, D-F)
 - the manufacturer (self-certification, module A), only for design categories C and D, and $L < 12$ m (with some exceptions)
 - for components and exhaust emissions, a NB is required
- NB:s having activity in Finland are VTT, DnV ja IMCI.

RCD Design categories

WATERCRAFT DESIGN CATEGORIES

Design category	Wind force (Beaufort scale)	Significant wave height (H $\frac{1}{3}$, metres)
A	exceeding 8 (20.7 m/s)	exceeding 4
B	up to, and including, 8 (20.7 m/s)	up to, and including, 4
C	up to, and including, 6 (13.8 m/s)	up to, and including, 2
D	up to, and including, 4 (7.9 m/s)	up to, and including, 0,3



Design categories- Explanatory notes

A. A recreational craft given design category A is considered to be designed for winds that may exceed wind force 8 (Beaufort scale) and significant wave height of 4 m and above but excluding abnormal conditions, such as storm, violent storm, hurricane, tornado and extreme sea conditions or rogue waves.

B. A recreational craft given design category B is considered to be designed for a wind force up to, and including, 8 and significant wave height up to, and including, 4 m.

C. A watercraft given design category C is considered to be designed for a wind force up to, and including, 6 and significant wave height up to, and including, 2 m.

D. A watercraft given design category D is considered to be designed for a wind force up to, and including, 4 and significant wave height up to, and including, 0,3 m, *with occasional waves of 0,5 m maximum height.*

Watercraft in each design category must be designed and constructed to withstand the parameters in respect of **stability, buoyancy**, and other relevant essential requirements listed in the Annex of RCD, and to have good handling characteristics.

Outside EU

- National rules, varying in scope
 - USA:
 - US Coast guard (compulsory, mainly flotation)
 - NMMA (mainly voluntary) referring to ABYC standards (comprehensive, almost as ISO)
 - Australia: Australian builders plate standard + variants in different territories
 - Own rules in Japan, Brazil, other countries...

Classifications and rules for WORKBOATS

- Finnish Maritime Administration Workboat rules (based on old Nordic Boat Rules for workboats); see www.vtt.fi/tyovene
- Classification Societies: Lloyds register SSC, DnV HSLC, GL, BV, RINA