



Information for Cruise Permits on the Small Craft (Control) Regulations 2017

These new regulations apply to small craft of less than 24 metres in length and includes boats, canoes, dinghies, kayaks, pontoons and jet skis, operating on the coastal waters of Antigua and Barbuda.

Where an Antigua & Barbuda cruising permit has been issued to a foreign flag vessel, any small craft onboard (as defined above) that may be deployed, must comply with the following safety standard:

PWCs (jet skis)

- Every person on a personal watercraft (PWC) is required to wear a personal floatation device (PFD)/lifejacket at all times when onboard, or being towed in any manner by a PWC. Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant. PFD/ lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention, be in a high visibility colour and fitted with retro-reflective strips
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m in length
- Three distress flares in a watertight container, combination of orange smoke and red flare and watertight flashlight
- One fire extinguisher
- PWC to be equipped with lanyard/kill cord for attachment to operator's body, clothing or PFD/lifejacket. A spare lanyard/kill cord should always be carried onboard

PWCs should operate at all times near shore and within navigation marks/buoyed channels and/or controlled designated areas, as applicable and during daylight hours only.

Do not operate a PWC under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Age restriction on person operating PWCs is must be 16 years of age or older.

If engaged in towing a float with a suitable PWC, it is essential to carry an observer.

A high incidence of accidents with PWCs involve collisions and when manoeuvring at speed (including freestyling and wave/wake jumping) a safe distance should be kept from other PWCs, vessels underway or at anchor, or persons in the water.

Canoes, Kayaks, Paddleboats, Rowboats, Sailboard and Kiteboards

- One PFD/lifejacket to be worn at all times for every person on board. Lifejacket or PFD must be inherently buoyant. PFD/ lifejacket should be fitted with a whistle to attract attention, be in a high visibility colour and fitted with retro-reflective strips
- One buoyant heaving line at least 15m length

Operations during daylight hours only and near shore in controlled designated areas

A pre-launch small craft safety checklist must always be completed, which should cover handling and recovery skills, collision avoidance and operating area restrictions.