

All boaters must be in possession of a COC (certificate of competence) or skipper's licence to operate a craft. All boats must have COF's.

(I do not deal with exceptions such as PWC and water craft that are not power driven or craft with engines with less than 15 hp or craft certified to carry more than 12 persons or inflatable craft – all of which have different regulations applicable).

1. All operators of water craft must be in possession of a certificate of competence (COC) by 1 March 2009 in order to legally operate a craft. A certified copy of the certificate of competence as well as proof of the operator's identity must be available on the craft at all times.  
(Non SA issued skippers' licences are not valid).
2. All watercraft must comply with design and construction of craft regulations by 8 August 2009. (This basically is a "certificate of buoyancy" which is issued by a surveyor). (Regulation 6).
3. All craft must have a certificate of fitness (COF) by 1 March 2009. This means that a certificate certifying compliance with the regulations (excluding buoyancy) must be obtained by 1 March 2009. A cof is renewable every 12 months.

Cof's can be arranged through most boating shops in Port Alfred.

In order to obtain a cof your boat must have the following:

1. The relevant markings (numbers, etc) displayed on the craft (markings are supplied by the surveyor who can register your boat).
2. One buoyancy aid for each person on board (Buoyancy aid to be SABS or CE or SIO approved). (The only life jacket that I could find that is SABS approved is a "Zero" brand).
3. Suitable fire extinguisher (a 1,5 kg dry powder extinguisher is accepted as suitable by the surveyors). Fire extinguishers must be serviced / recharged annually.

4. Two oars or two paddles. (Only for single outboard engine craft).
5. Capsize rope.
6. Anchor & chain (3 meters) and rope of 100 meters.
7. First aid kit and elementary first aid manual.
8. Spares – adequate to carry out emergency repairs.
9. Tools – adequate to carry out emergency repairs.

Further: All craft must be fitted with a kill switch. Bollards must be in place to secure a tow rope and anchor.

(There are a number of special requirements for inboard engines).

There are special requirements for fuel tanks (Clause 8 of annexure A to the Regulations).

An emergency steering mechanism for outboard engines must be fitted.

Boats must have a bilge pump OR efficient bailer.

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