



Sport Utility Boat Safety Check Form

Decal Awarded: Yes ___ No ___



Green sections must be completed for award of decal

Owner / Operator Information				Water Craft Information							
Name:				Hull Number (opt):							
Phone Number:				Make & Model:							
Attended Safe Boating Class: Yes___ No___				Row Boat___ Kayak___ Canoe___ Paddleboard___							
Attended related skills class: Yes___ No___				Scull___ Other_____							
Location of VSC:				Color: Deck_____ Hull_____							
Date of inspection (YYYY/MM/DD): ___/___/___				Length (in feet): <12___ 12 - <16___ 16 & over___							
Date of inspection (YYYY/MM/DD): ___/___/___				Craft used in protected___ :open___ :swift___ ;water							
Safety Check Requirements			Y	N	N/A	Craft Recommendations (continued)			Y	N	N/A
Sound signal (whistle, horn, etc)						Lines in good condition and secure					
Life jacket (adjusted to wearer & USCG approved)						Hardware secure and in working order					
Overall the vessel is in serviceable condition						Bulkheads / air bags / emergency flotation in good working order					
White light & Visual distress signals (sunset to sunrise)						Paddle / oars / serviceable					
Open Water Recommendations			Y	N	N/A	Other Recommendations			Y	N	N/A
Pump or bailer						Dressed for immersion / helmet					
Spray skirt						Personal ID on operator					
Spare paddle / oars						Float plan with someone on shore					
Compass / GPS / navigation charts						Appropriate food and water					
Tow / boat recovery system						Contact information on craft					
Marine radio (VHF) / cell phone / weather radio						Appropriate emergency kit (might include first-aid, knife, repair kit, etc.)					
Craft Recommendations			Y	N	N/A	Sun protection					
Hull & deck sound						High visibility clothing, gear, etc					
Hatch covers / access plates in good condition and secure						Appropriate self rescue system / skills					

I certify that I personally checked this craft and it meets the requirements laid out in the form above.

Examiner (print name): _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

- I am consenting to this safety check with the full knowledge that it is provided to me as a public service free of charge.
- I understand and agree that my receipt of this safety check shall not constitute or be construed as a warranty or guarantee of my qualification, knowledge or skills or the seaworthiness or adequacy of any of the equipment on board my craft.
- I will not hold the Vessel Examiner or organizations the Vessel Examiner is affiliated with liable in any way for advice given or opinions expressed in connection with this safety check.
- By accepting this safety check decal, I am pledging to operate my craft in a safe manner.
- I will remove the VSC decal should I choose to sell the craft or operate it in a manner that no longer meets the requirements of the VSC program.

Owner / Operator Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Owner / Operator Information	Additional Information
Good awareness (robust understanding of many factors impacting the voyage being undertaken)	Water temp, weather, waves, current, visibility, navigation skills, craft design limitations, physical conditioning, skill level, other craft on the water, local geography, etc.
Safety Check Requirements	Additional Information
Sound signal (whistle, horn, etc)	Ideally attached to your life jacket
Life jacket (adjusted to wearer & USCG approved)	9 out of 10 boaters that drown are not wearing a life jacket
Overall the vessel is in serviceable condition	Leaky hulls, lines or fittings in disrepair, leaky bulkheads – are all reasons for VSC failure
White light & Visual distress signals (sunset to sunrise)	Appropriate for environment you will be operating in - Expired signals don't meet requirement and are unreliable if used.
Open Water Recommendations	Additional Information
Pump or bailer	Sponges do not move sufficient water for emergency purposes
Spray skirt	Should fit snugly over cockpit coaming and not allow water to pond on top or funnel into the cockpit.
Spare paddle / oars	At least one set per group
Compass / GPS / navigation charts	Know how to use them & test in the conditions you expect to need them
Tow / boat recovery system	Do you have a plan if you need help getting home? Also, see above.
Marine radio (VHF) / cell phone / weather radio	Know how to use them & test them in the conditions you expect to need them
Craft Recommendations	Additional Information
Hull & deck sound	Even a small leak can let in more water than you can bail out
Hatch covers / access plates in good condition and secure	See above
Lines in good condition and secure	If you capsize, hold on to your craft. It can potentially blow or surf away faster than you can swim after it
Hardware secure and in working order	A malfunctioning rudder, skeg, etc. can be a significant liability
Bulkheads / air bags / emergency flotation in good working order	Many craft without floatation become unusable or sink completely when flooded / Unsecured floatation = gone
Paddle / oars serviceable	How far can you paddle with your hands?
Other Recommendations	Additional Information
Dressed for immersion / helmet	Cold water kills: cold shock - 1 minute, swimming failure -10 minutes, hypothermia - 1 hour / Impact: unconscious = dead
Personal ID on operator	Driver's license and credit card is excellent
Float plan with someone on shore	Route, duration, craft description, bail out options, etc.
Appropriate food and water	SUBs are completely dependent on the operator for mobility. Keep yourself well fueled
Contact information affixed to craft	Your name and phone number is sufficient
Appropriate emergency kit (might include first-aid, knife, fire starter, boat repair, etc.)	When putting your kit together, bear in mind the type of activities you'll be doing and the conditions you'll expect to encounter
Sun protection	Don't forget your eyes
High visibility clothing, gear, etc	Retroreflective , brightly colored, luminescent, etc.
Appropriate self rescue system / skills	Practice in controlled situations similar to those you expect to encounter while operating your craft