

Frequently Asked Questions

Am I affected by this rule?

Yes, you are affected if you are a recreational boat manufacturer producing monohull outboard motor boats less than 20 feet in length that are not currently built to the American Boat & Yacht Council S-30–Outboard Engines and Related Equipment Weights (ABYC S-30) standard.



What action must I take if I am covered by the rule?

Recreational boats built on or after June

1, 2018, must comply with the new regulations. Recreational boats built for sale before then do not need to comply with the requirements.

How does the new Table 183.75 affect past, current, and future production boats?

All recreational boats, except for canoes and kayaks, must bear a certification label that states “This Boat Complies With U.S. Coast Guard Safety Standards In Effect On the Date of Certification.” That means that if your boat is a model year 2019 or later, it must comply with the new Table 183.75. If you have old stock that have the last two digits of the Hull Identification Number as 18 or earlier Table 4 applies.

Small Entity Compliance Guide

If you have questions about this rule, contact:

Boating Safety Division
United States Coast Guard

Phone: 202-372-1075

E-mail: Po.L.Chang@uscg.mil

The U.S. Coast Guard recommends that:

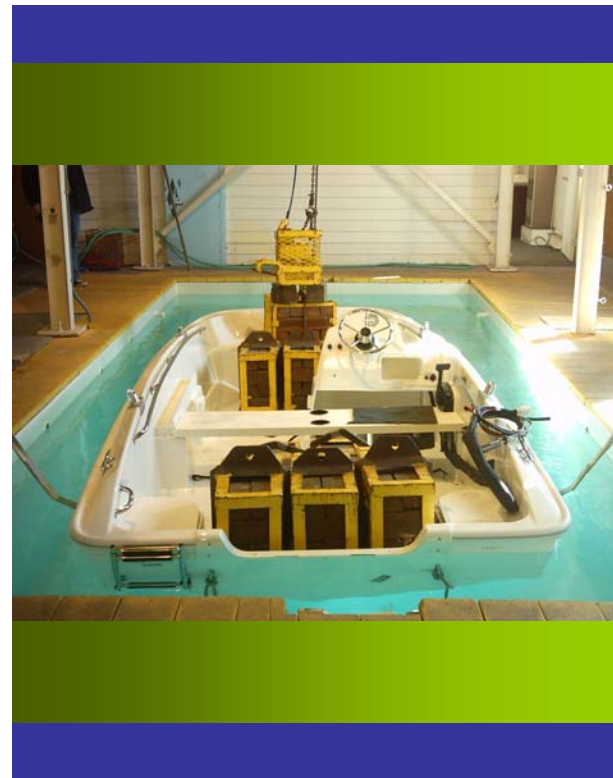
1. You always wear a life jacket when boating;
2. You don't drink alcohol and operate a boat; and
3. You take a knowledge or skills-based boater education course.



U.S. Coast Guard

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Recreational Boat Safe Loading and Flotation Regulations



33 CFR 183.75

United States Coast Guard

Basics



The Coast Guard is implementing a statutory mandate to require new recreational boats to have more flotation, to support the weight of heavier modern gasoline outboard engines. The new rules, found in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 183.75, update the outboard engine weights table used in calculating safe loading capacities.

The new rules provide a higher level of safety. These rules replace regulations last updated in 1984. Section 308 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 requires the Coast Guard to issue regulations updating Table 4 of subpart H in 33 CFR part 183 to reflect the ABYC S-30 standard.

The rule became effective on **June 1, 2018**. This Compliance Guide, issued under the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Act of 1996, provides a plain-language overview of the rule, **but you should refer to the final rule directly for details**.

What is the cost of implementing this rule?

The Coast Guard estimates that, for most manufacturers, it will cost less than \$50 per boat to implement the new rule.

So what does the change from Table 4 to Table 183.75 mean for the boat manufacturer?

Table 183.75 more accurately accounts for the weight of the outboard engine when it comes to determining the Safe Loading and Level Flotation of a particular boat model. Note that the new Table 183.75 comes with 6 notes that are very important. In particular, note 1 allows the manufacturer to deduct 10% of the dry engine weight if the transom height is 20 inches or less, which is the case for most recreational boats under 20 feet in length; and note 6 which allows the manufacturer to omit the weight of the portable fuel tank if the boat has a permanent installed fuel tank and is not intended to be operated with a portable fuel tank.

What happens when ABYC updates its S-30 weight table?

Although ABYC periodically updates the S-30 weight table based on market surveys, 33 CFR 183.75 will remain unchanged until such date when the regulation is revised. So, if in the future S-30 is updated to reflect the outboard engine weight of that date, boat manufacturers may voluntarily comply with the updated industry standard, but must comply with the constant Table 183.75. For now, the voluntary industry standard and the federal regulation in regards to outboard engine weight is the same.

How does this affect recall campaigns?

In the event that your company is involved in a recall campaign to correct a non-compliance with Safe Loading or Level Flotation regulations, the corrections to the boats are required to only bring them into compliance with the regulations in effect on the date of certification, as stated by the certification label. If a recall campaign involves boats with certification dates before and after June 1, 2018, the correction to the first group of boats may be different than the correction for the second group. Of course, for uniformity and simplicity, the manufacturer may choose to make the correction so that all the boats within the scope of the recall campaign become compliant with the new Table 183.75.

How to Find This Rule

The official text of the “Recreational Boat Flotation Standards—Update of Outboard Engine Weight Table Requirements” interim rule appears in 82 Federal Register 49737 for October 27, 2017. The Federal Register is available at www.federalregister.gov

For additional details on the rulemaking record, visit the following website: www.regulations.gov. The docket number for this rule is USCG-2016-1012.