A quick guide to:

Safe boating in Tasmania



MAST

MARINE and SAFETY TASMANIA
making boating better

IALA Maritime Buoyage System

PORT Keep red "can" shape on left when going upstream, right downstream. Flashing RED light (if lit).

STARBOARD Keep green "cone" shape on right when going upstream, left downstream. Flashing GREEN light (if lit).

SPECIAL MARK YELLOW can or pole used to mark marine farm leases, spoil ground and speed restriction areas. YELLOW light (if lit).

SAFE WATER MARK Indicates deep water. WHITE light.

ISOLATED DANGER MARK Pass any side but keep well clear. WHITE light flashing groups of 2 (if lit).

NORTH CARDINAL MARK Pass on north side. WHITE light flashing continuously quickly.

SOUTH CARDINAL MARK Pass on south side. WHITE light 6 quick flashes and one long flash.

EAST CARDINAL MARK Pass on east side. WHITE light in groups of 3 quick flashes.

WEST CARDINAL MARK Pass on west side. **WHITE** light in groups of 9 quick flashes.

BOAT RAMP OR JETTY BLUE light.

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mast.tas.gov.au

Registration numbers

Registration numbers must be displayed on both sides of the vessel. The numbers must be 150mm high or in the case of a personal watercraft (PWC) – 75mm high.

Capacity

Your vessel must be fitted with an Australian Builders Plate or a Capacity Label.If you require a Capacity Label contact MAST or order on the MAST Portal.

Boat owners need to make an assessment of their boat's safe persons capacity. For boats other than inflatable boats, there are three methods:

1. A number representing the maximum capacity calculated according to Australian Standard AS1799.1-2021.
2. The manufacturer's or builder's maximum persons capacity rating or Australian Builders Plate (APB) (boats manufactured after 1 July 2006).
3. A capacity calculated in a manner approved by MAST.

Contact MAST

1300 135 513 admin@mast.tas.gov.au

Compliance issues
Tasmania Police
131 444 (non-emergency)
tasmania.police@police.tas.gov.au
www.police.tas.gov.au

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Frequently asked questions

Tasmanian recreational motor boat licences, registrations and permits

How long is my licence valid for?

MAST motor boat licences are issued on a three-year renewal cycle and share a common expiry date. Before licences expire a renewal notice will be issued, and to avoid cancellation, licences must be renewed within 12-months.

How do I check if my licence is current or update my details?

Log on to the MAST Portal. This portal allows you to check licence expiry dates, manage renewals, and update contact details.

Am I required to carry a licence card?

No, Licensees are not required to carry a licence card while operating a boat. However, physical licences can be issued through the MAST portal or at a Service Tasmania centre.[1]

How long are Tasmanian boat registrations valid for?

One year. Boat registrations, along with mooring permits, must be renewed annually and within 12-months of the expiry date to avoid cancellation.

Dates to remember

Item	Expiry date	Year(s)
Motorboat Licences	30 June	2027,2030,2033
Motorboat Licences (Provisional)	17th birthday	Licence holders' 17th birthday
Motorboat Registration	31 December	Annually
Mooring Permit	30 June	Annually

Safety equipment

Equipment		Smooth Waters	Sheltered Waters	Coastal Waters
Anchor, Rope and Chain		✓	✓	✓
Bailer/ Bilge Pump		✓	✓	✓
Life Jacket for all on board (AS4758)		✓ Level 50 or greater	✓ Level 100 or greater	✓ Level 100 or greater
Fire Extinguisher		✓	✓	✓
Oars/Aux propulsion (Boat under 6m only)		✓	✓	✓
Flares		Recommended	✓ 2x Orange 2 x Red	✓ 2x Orange 2x Red 2x Parachute
OR			OR	OR
EVDS		Recommended	✓ EPIRB and GPS-EPIRB and VHF	✓ EPIRB and GPS-EPIRB and VHF and 2Parachute flares
Hearing Line		Recommended	✓ Boats over 6m only	✓
Lifebuoy		Recommended	✓ Boats over 6m only	✓
Marine Radio (VHF)		Recommended	Recommended	✓
EPIRB (GPS enabled preferred)		Recommended	Recommended	✓
Radar Reflector		Recommended	Recommended	✓
First Aid Kit and water		Recommended	Recommended	✓
Navigation lights (required sunset to sunrise)		✓	✓	✓



Check the weather

Get a weather forecast before going out on your boat.



VHF radio

Always monitor CH16 on your VHF radio.

Life Jackets

It is compulsory to wear an approved life jacket in any motor boat or motor-propelled tender that is under six (6) metres in length, when under power.

Children under the age of 12 years must wear a life jacket in motor boats and motor-propelled tenders of any length, when under power.

Inflatable life jackets need to be serviced

Inflatable life jackets must be serviced according to the manufacturer's recommendations and also self-checked in between to ensure efficiency.

- Inflatables are not suitable for children
- Crotch straps improve performance of life jackets.

Quick guide to buying and selling a boat

What to look for when buying a boat?

A seaworthy boat is the best piece of marine safety equipment, so it is essential that buyers inspect the hull, engine and trailer for condition and service history.

Sellers must: Complete a disposal notice then sign and lodge it within 14 days at Service Tasmania or on the MAST Portal. Then sign the transfer section and provide it to the buyer.

Buyers must: Complete and sign the transfer form then lodge it at Service Tasmania within 14 days or complete the transfer in the MAST Portal.

[1] In mid 2026, this process will also be available through the MyServiceTas app.

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