

Chapter 430. Watercraft: Safety Equipment Requirements

4VAC15-430-30. Personal flotation devices required.

Summary: This amendment will adopt the federal requirement for life jackets to be worn by children under the age of 13.

Rationale: An amendment to the regulation on personal flotation devices is being proposed to incorporate the federal child life jacket requirement into Virginia's regulations, as recommended by the Board and during the public scoping period. Both the Lake Anna Civic Association and the Tri-County Lake Administrative Commission, which serves Smith Mountain Lake, included a suggestion to adopt this requirement during the public scoping period. Aligning Virginia's regulation with the federal standard will reduce confusion about differing life jacket requirements for children.

4VAC15-430-30. Personal flotation devices required.

D. No person may operate a recreational vessel under way with any child under 13 years of age aboard unless each such child is either:

1. Wearing an appropriate PFD approved by the Coast Guard; or
2. Below decks or in an enclosed cabin.

Statutory Authority

§ 29.1-701 and 29.1-735 of the Code of Virginia.