

CHAPTER 6110
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER SAFETY; WATER SURFACE USE

6110 1200 NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON
 THE WATERS OF THE STATE,
 SAFETY EQUIPMENT

6110 1500 WATERWAY MARKERS
 6110 1900 ACCIDENT REPORTS

6110.1200 NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE; SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Subpart 1. **Rules of the road.** Rules of the road:

[For text of subpart 1, items A to C, see M.R. 1985]

D. A nonmotorized watercraft has right-of-way over a motor-powered watercraft except when it is the overtaking watercraft. Motor-powered watercraft should always keep clear and pass astern of nonmotorized watercraft.

E. Small watercraft shall not insist on the right-of-way, nor unnecessarily impede the passage of large commercial vessels, which are restricted in their ability to maneuver by size, draft, or speed.

F. When watercraft are in a narrow channel, each shall keep as far to the right as may be safe or practical.

G. All watercraft shall yield the right-of-way to enforcement or other authorized emergency watercraft displaying a red or blue flashing light.

Subp. 2. **Mode of operation of watercraft.** Mode of operation:

[For text of subp 2, items A to C, see M.R. 1985]

D. No person shall operate a watercraft in the vicinity of a lock and dam on the Mississippi River from Upper St. Anthony Falls through Lock and Dam Number Eight in violation of the following:

(1) In the marked restricted area 600 feet upstream or 150 feet downstream of the dam, including auxiliary locks not in service.

(2) At greater than a slow-no wake speed in the lock or lock approach area. Slow-no wake, means the operation of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, and in no case greater than five miles per hour.

(3) Enforcement, emergency, resource management, and other government personnel or contractors are exempt from this part when performing official duties or authorized work.

E. The operator of any watercraft, when signaled to do so by a conservation officer, sheriff, or sheriff's deputy shall bring the watercraft to a stop or maneuver it in a manner which will allow the officer to come alongside.

Subp. 3. **Personal flotation (lifesaving) devices.** Flotation devices:

[For text of subp 3, items A to C, see M.R. 1985]

D. All personal flotation devices required by this subpart shall be:

[For text of subp 3, item D, subitems (1) and (2), see M.R. 1985]

(3) in serviceable condition free of tears, rot, punctures, or waterlogging, and with all straps and fasteners present and in good condition;

(4) either readily accessible or worn; except for those Type V devices which are required to be worn to be accepted as United States Coast Guard approved. Readily accessible means easily retrievable within a reasonable

amount of time in an emergency. Personal flotation devices located in locked containers, under heavy objects or left in shipping bags are not considered readily accessible;

[For text of subp 3, item D, subitem (5), see M.R. 1985]

[For text of subps 4 to 7, see M.R. 1985]

Statutory Authority: *MS s 361.25*

History: *10 SR 2346*

6110.1500 WATERWAY MARKERS.

[For text of subpart 1, see M.R. 1985]

Subp. 2. Channel marker buoys. Channel marker buoys:

[For text of subp 2, item A, see M.R. 1985]

B. Where channel marker buoys are placed to indicate the location of a well defined boating channel, an all green buoy and an all red buoy shall be placed in opposition to each other to indicate the course of the channel is located between them. In flowing water, the red buoy shall be situated on the right side of the channel when facing upstream. A green flashing light shall be used in conjunction with a green buoy if it is to be lighted. When reflectorization is used with a green buoy, it shall be green in color and no less than a four-inch wide strip shall completely surround the buoy and shall be located at the top of the buoy. Number designations shall be odd. A red flashing light shall be used in conjunction with a red buoy if it is to be lighted. When reflectorization is used with a red buoy, it shall be red in color and no less than a four-inch wide strip shall completely surround the buoy and shall be located at the top of the buoy. Number designations shall be even. Existing black buoys may be used through December 31, 1987.

[For text of subp 2, items C and D, see M.R. 1985]

[For text of subps 3 to 6, see M.R. 1985]

Statutory Authority: *MS s 361.25*

History: *10 SR 2346*

6110.1900 ACCIDENT REPORTS.

Each county sheriff shall report to the commissioner of natural resources promptly, on forms provided by the commissioner, each accident involving a watercraft, and every drowning, in order to properly evaluate the water safety program. In the event of death, the report shall be made within 48 hours; in event of serious injury which incapacitates the victim for more than 72 hours or involves property damage of over \$200 report must be made within five days. Each charge of a violation of law made against a watercraft operator and each written warning thereof shall be reported. Each watercraft for hire which does not comply with the standards of safety for such watercraft shall also be reported.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 361 25*

History: *10 SR 2346*