

## personal watercraft ...

### Introduction ...

Keep a good lookout at all times for other jetskis, boats, hazards and people involved in water activities. Avoid operating your personal watercraft (pwc—jetski) in a manner that could cause nuisance, noise or danger to people in the area, and always consider your environment. Check with your Local Council or the Environmental Protection Agency ([www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au)) regarding prohibited areas for the operation of your jetski.

### Approaching Head On ...

Each jetski alters course to starboard (right) and passes port (left) to port. This applies to narrow channels and open waters.



### Freestyling ...

High-speed manoeuvres such as wake-jumping, donuts, figure 8's and 360's are examples of freestyling. Always be aware of other water users and find a place away from populated beaches and residential areas (check Maritime Safety Queensland website [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au)—Waterways Management) for prohibited freestyling areas. Freestyling is NOT permitted within 200 metres of the shoreline if there are dwellings within 100 metres of that shoreline.

### Steering ...

Your jetski must always be under power to maintain control. If the engine is idling or shut-off, all steering control is LOST—the jetski will continue in the direction it was headed, no matter which way the steering control is turned. Collisions have occurred when the rider reduces power, not realising that the jetski cannot turn without throttle. To avoid a collision, apply power, make your turn, then reduce power. Right your capsized PWC according to the manufacturer's or manufacturer's agent's instructions.

### Ride Smart Sticker ...

A Ride Smart sticker MUST be affixed to your jetski and visible to the operator at all times.

### Capacity Label ...

All jetskis are required to have a Capacity Label affixed in a position which is visible to the operator at all times. Capacity labels are designed to show operators how many people they can have safely onboard.

### Speed ...

For safety do NOT exceed set speed limits where your wash can cause injury to other water-users, damage to the shoreline and other boats / jetskis. Consider traffic density and visibility to determine a safe speed.



### **Distance ...**

The following distances **MUST** be maintained; reduce speed to 6 knots within:  
60 metres from people in the water;  
60 metres from anchored or moored boats, boat ramps, jetties and pontoons  
60 metres from shoreline  
60 metres from boundary of a bathing reserve

Exceptions apply in a narrow channel (less than 120m wide) where the operator must stay as close as practicable to the centre, but still on the starboard side of the waterway.

Personal Watercraft Driver to maintain a distance of 30m from other moving boats when travelling at more than 10 knots. **(1 Jan, 2012)**

### **Licensing ...**

It is compulsory for all jetski operators to hold a personal watercraft licence, as a separate licence to their Recreational Marine Driver's Licence. If you move from interstate, you are required to obtain a jetski licence unless you hold an equivalent licence issued by another state. Short-term visitors can use their boat licence equivalent, if that is all that is required to operate a jetski in their home state. If your home state does not require any licence, then you must obtain a Queensland licence.

A Learner PWC Driver **CAN NOT** carry passengers other than the supervising PWC Licence Holder. **(1 Jan 2012)**

You **CAN** operate a jetski without a licence **ONLY** if accompanied by a licensed operator who is able to take immediate control if required. A hire jetski can be ridden without a licence under special restrictions which must be clearly outlined before the hirer operates the craft.

PWC Licence holder **MUST** wear the "kill switch" lanyard when the PWC is being driven by a Learner Driver. **(1 Jan 2012)**

### **Registration ...**

All jetskis **MUST** be registered with registration **SYMBOLS** as follows:  
displayed on both sides of the jetski; at least 100mm high; legible from 30 metres clearly visible in a contrasting colour to your jetski; easily seen whilst your jetski is underway. The registration **LABEL** must be displayed on the port (left) side, adjacent to the registration **SYMBOLS**.

### **Navigation Lights ...**

Jetskis operating between sunset and sunrise (or at times of reduced visibility), **MUST** show navigation lights—ie sidelights and either an all round white light or a stern light. N.B. PFDs and EPIRBs which carry a manufacturer's expiry date must be replaced or serviced by the manufacturer (or an authorised service agent).

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT ...

The following ADDITIONAL safety equipment requirements for personal watercraft, similar to that required for other recreational boats, are NOW introduced. (1 Jan 2012)

| Equipment   | Smooth Waters   | Partially Smooth Waters                                      | Beyond Partially Smooth Waters                               |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>MUST carry</b> under Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2004  |   |  |  |
| Personal flotation device   | *<br>PFD Type 2 or 3 or level 50 or level 50 special purpose (must meet Australian Standards) | *<br>PFD Type 2 or level 50 (must meet Australian Standards) | *<br>PFD Type 2 or level 50 (must meet Australian Standards) |
| Signalling device if operating at night (eg torch, lantern)   | *   | *  | *  |
| Capacity Label  | *   | *  | *  |
| Ride Smart Sticker  | *   | *  | *  |
| V Sheet   |   | √  | √  |
| Flares (two red hand-held and two orange smoke)   |   | √  | √  |
| EPIRB (406MHz) when operating more than 2 nautical miles from land  |   |  | *  |
| <b>SHOULD carry</b> under Transport Operations (Marine Safety - Recreational Ships Miscellaneous Equipment) Standard 2006 |   |  |  |
| Anchor  |   | √<br>With cable appropriate to area of operation             | √<br>With cable appropriate to area of operation             |
| Drinking Water  |   | √  | √  |
| Chart   |   | √  | √  |
| Compass   |   | √  | √  |
| Handheld electronic navigation device (if not equipped with chart or compass)   |   | √  | √  |

### Personal Flotation Devices MUST meet the following Australian Standards:

- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| - PFD Type 2               | - AS1499 |
| - PFD Type 3               | - AS2260 |
| - Level 50                 | - AS4758 |
| - Level 50 Special Purpose | - AS4758 |

\* Indicates the equipment *already required* to be carried on a PWC.

√ Indicates the *additional equipment required* to be carried on a PWC.