

PFD Requirements by Surrounding States

Wisconsin PFD Requirements

- All vessels must have at least one Type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device (PFD) that is U.S. Coast Guard–approved, wearable and of the proper size for each person on board. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
- One Type IV U.S. Coast Guard–approved PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks) and immediately available, in addition to the above requirement.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.
- Federal law requires children under the age of 13 to **wear** a U.S. Coast Guard–approved PFD while underway in an open vessel on federally controlled waters. It is strongly recommended that children also wear PFDs while on state waters.
- Sailboarders and windsurfers are exempt from PFD requirements but are encouraged to wear a PFD.
- Every person on board a PWC must **wear** a U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD.

Michigan PFD Requirements

- All vessels must be equipped with a personal flotation device for each person on board:
 - The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) requires that all vessels have at least one Type I, II, or III personal flotation device that is USCG–approved, wearable and of the proper size for each person on board. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
 - Michigan’s PFD law permits a vessel that is less than 16 feet long, or is a canoe or kayak, to choose to have either a wearable PFD (Type I, II, or III) or a throwable PFD (Type IV) for each person on board.
- One Type IV USCG–approved PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer and readily accessible in addition to the above requirements.
- Michigan law requires all children under 6 years of age to **wear** a USCG–approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel.
- Each person riding on or towed behind a PWC must **wear** a U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type I, II or III personal flotation device. Inflatable PFDs are not allowed on PWC.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.

Illinois PFD Requirements

- All vessels must have at least one USCG–approved Type I, II, or III PFD for each person on board and being towed. All vessels 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, also must carry one USCG–approved Type IV throwable device.
- All children under the age of 13 must wear a PFD on vessels less than 26 feet in length when underway, unless they are below decks in an enclosed cabin.
- A personal watercraft may not be operated unless each person on board is wearing a USCG–approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD.
- Sailboarders are exempt from PFD requirements but are encouraged to wear a PFD.
- Type V PFDs may be substituted for a Type I, II, or III if the Type V PFD is approved for the activity for which it is being used.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and readily accessible. The PFDs must be of the proper size for the intended wearer. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.