

# PWC/jetskis safety equipment

Whether you own or just borrow a personal watercraft (PWC), you must know the requirements.



Exploring, wave jumping, tow sports and fishing are just a few fun ways to enjoy your PWC. Whatever the activity you choose, the smart way to enjoy your sport is safely.

## What defines a PWC

PWC means a powered boat that:

- has a fully enclosed hull that does not take on water if capsized; and
- is designed to be operated by a person standing, crouching or kneeling on it, or sitting astride it.

## Kill switch lanyards

It is strongly recommended that a kill switch lanyard, connected to the PWC and the licenced operator's wrist or lifejacket, be worn at all times.

If you fall off a PWC, the kill switch lanyard will disconnect once you enter the water, causing the PWC's engine to shut down and the machine to stop.

It is mandatory for a supervising licence holder to wear a kill switch lanyard attached to the PWC while being driven by an unlicensed driver.

## Navigation lights

All PWCs travelling between sunset and sunrise or at times of reduced visibility must show navigation lights. Navigation lights must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

## PWC rules on the water

As the skipper of a PWC you must make sure that you keep a proper lookout.

On busy waterways there may be plenty of obstacles. The busier it is, the slower you should go.

You must reduce your speed to no more than 6 knots if you are within 60 metres of:

- people in the water
- anchored or moored boats, boat ramps, wharfs, jetties or pontoons
- the boundary of a bathing reserve (check with your local council for locations)
- the shore.

You must reduce your speed to no more than 10 knots if you are within 30 metres of another moving boat, unless you're involved in an approved aquatic event or where doing so would endanger you or another person.

Freestyling or wave jumping is restricted to beyond 200m of the shore if homes are within 100m of the shoreline where you are operating (this does not apply to dams and inland waters).



For more information scan the QR code or visit our website at [msq.qld.gov.au/safety](https://msq.qld.gov.au/safety)



**Queensland  
Government**

## PWC/jetskis: safety equipment

Item	Smooth waters	Partially smooth waters	Beyond partially smooth waters
Lifejacket for each person on board	Required <i>Lifejacket level 50 or level 50 special purpose</i>	Required <i>Lifejacket level 50</i>	Required <i>Lifejacket level 50</i>
Signalling device if operating at between sunset and sunrise (torch, lantern, fluorescent light or cyalume stick. Waterproof and buoyant options are best.)	Required	Required	Required
EPIRB* (406 MHz) Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When operating more than 2 nm from land.</li> <li>EPIRBs must have a printed expiry date and be replaced or serviced by the manufacturer (or authorised service agent) by this date; must comply with</li> <li>Australian Standard AS/NZ 4280.1:2003 or later and must be registered in the name of the owner/master with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.</li> </ul>			Required <i>When operating more than 2nm from land</i>
Flares (2 compliant handheld red flares and 2 compliant handheld orange smoke signals)		Required#	Required#
V sheet		Required#	Required#
Anchoring (type and weight of anchor must be appropriate for the conditions)		Recommended	Recommended
Navigation (a compass and a navigation chart) <i>For a PWC without a chart or compass, an electronic navigation device appropriate to the operational area</i>		Recommended	Recommended
Drinking water	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended

#Does not apply to a PWC operating in an approved aquatic event or beyond partially smooth waters and within 0.5 nautical miles from land.

\*A PLB may be carried instead of an EPIRB provided that it complies with AS4280.2, is GPS-enabled, floats or is in a floating pouch, and is registered with AMSA.

