

2014 Rental Boat Safety Checklist Pilot Project Update

In follow-up to the fall and winter discussions on modernizing the rental boat safety checklist, Transport Canada is pleased to provide the following update. During the 2014 boating season, Transport Canada is pilot-testing new Rental Boat Safety Checklists that feature visual icons and plainly written statements in a ready-to-use format, and a tutorial that explains how Rental Boat Agencies can use them. **(Download and use the FREE checklists and tutorial from the Canadian Safe Boating Council website at: <http://www.csbc.ca/>)**

There are five checklists – one for each of five types of motorized boat:

- Tiller-Steered boats
- Wheel-Steered boats (such as ski boats and runabouts)
- Pontoon boats
- Houseboats
- Personal Watercraft

We have adapted each checklist from similar ones created by the United States Coast Guard to meet Canadian law and Transport Canada standards. Boat rental agents and clients who reviewed the draft checklists liked the icons and the simpler language, and believe they will make it easier for rental agencies to educate their clients about how to operate the boat, boating safety rules and local hazards; and help make waterways safer for everyone.

Transport Canada has also developed an online tutorial that shows rental agents and their employees how to use the checklists. The tutorial:

- highlights the important safety information on the checklists
- describes how to conduct a dockside safety briefing so clients become familiar with the unique features of the boat they are renting and know how to operate it safely

We welcome your feedback on these tools and ask that you send comments and questions to Transport Canada at pcoc-ccep@tc.gc.ca by September 30, 2014. A special note of thanks is extended to the volunteers of the Canadian Safe Boating Council for making these resources easily accessible on their website.

We wish you safe and enjoyable boating season!