

# CPYB doc Recreational Craft Regulations

The [UK's Recreational Craft Regulations 2017 \(RCR\)](#), mandate that recreational boats and personal watercraft between 2.5 and 24 meters in length comply with essential safety and environmental requirements for design, construction, and emissions. Key regulations cover aspects like the [Watercraft Identification Number \(WIN\)](#) (also known as a builder's plate), stability, protection from falling overboard, and the installation of propulsion systems, which must meet exhaust and noise emission standards. Compliance requires a conformity assessment process, often involving a [Notified Body](#), resulting in a [Declaration of Conformity](#).

## Scope of the Regulations

- **Covered Products:** Recreational craft (boats and personal watercraft) between 2.5 and 24 meters in hull length, and components of watercraft.
- **Exclusions:** Canoes, kayaks, surfboards, submersibles, and other human-powered craft are generally excluded.

## Essential Requirements

Manufacturers must ensure their products meet essential requirements, including:

- **Design & Construction:**
  - Unique Watercraft Identification Number (WIN) or builder's plate.
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  - Stability and freeboard.
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  - Protection from falling overboard and reboarding means.
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  - Visibility from the main steering position.
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- Owner's Manual.
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- **Environmental:**
  - Exhaust emissions from propulsion engines.
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  - Noise emissions from the craft and engine.
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## Conformity Assessment

- **Process:** Before being placed on the market, the watercraft or engine must undergo a conformity assessment to demonstrate compliance with the essential requirements.
- **Declaration of Conformity:** The manufacturer must draw up an EU Declaration of Conformity.
- **Notified Body:** For higher-risk products, or when required by the chosen conformity assessment module, a Notified Body must be involved to assess the product's conformity.
- **Post-Construction Assessment (PCA):** This is a procedure that can demonstrate conformity, particularly for watercraft built for personal use or when the original manufacturer's assessment was not done.

## Key Marking & Documentation

- **Builder's Plate:** A plate displaying the Watercraft Identification Number (WIN) must be affixed to the watercraft.
- **Declaration of Conformity:** A document that the manufacturer must provide to the national authorities and make available upon request