



# PADDLE CRAFT VESSEL SAFETY CHECK (VSC)

To be completed by a U.S. Coast Guard approved Vessel Examiner.

Date of VSC: \_\_\_\_\_

Decal Awarded:

Yes  No

**Sections 1, 2 and 3 must be completed**

I. Owner / Operator Information				II. Water Craft Information						
Name:				Registration No.		HIN:				
				Make & Model:						
Attended Safe Boating Class: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				Kayak <input type="checkbox"/>		Canoe <input type="checkbox"/>				
Attended Related Skills Class: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>				Row Boat <input type="checkbox"/>		Paddleboard <input type="checkbox"/>				
Location of VSC- County: _____ State: _____				Scull <input type="checkbox"/>		Other: _____				
Replaced decal was: Check a selection below				Color: Deck _____		Hull _____				
Last Year <input type="checkbox"/> Outdated <input type="checkbox"/> First Time <input type="checkbox"/>				Length (in feet): <12 <input type="checkbox"/>		12-16 <input type="checkbox"/>				
				>16 <input type="checkbox"/>		Water craft used in: Protected <input type="checkbox"/>				
				Open <input type="checkbox"/>		Swift <input type="checkbox"/>				
III. Safety Check Requirements			Y	N	N/A	V. Craft Recommendations (continued)		Y	N	N/A
Sound signal (whistle, horn, etc)						*Lines in good condition and secure				
Life jacket						*Hardware secure & in working order				
Vessel in overall serviceable condition * see asterisk items on reverse side						*Bulkheads / air bags / emergency flotation in good working order				
Navigation Lights; White light						*Paddle / Oars / serviceable				
Visual Distress Signals (VDS)						*Contact information on craft.				
Anchor Lights						Non-Motorized Vessel Ownership Sticker				
State and / or Local Requirements						Includes Name and Phone				
IV. Open Water Recommendations						VI. Other Recommendations				
Pump or bailer						Dressed for immersion / helmet				
Spray skirt						Personal ID on operator				
Spare paddle / oars						Float plan with someone on shore				
Compass / GPS / navigation charts						Appropriate food and water				
Tow / boat recovery system						Access the risk / good awareness				
Marine radio (VHF) / cell phone / weather radio / PLB						Appropriate emergency kit (might include first-aid, knife, repair kit, etc.)				
V. Craft Recommendations						Sun protection				
*Hull & deck good condition						High visibility clothing, gear, etc.				
*Hatch covers / access plates in good condition and secure						Appropriate self rescue system / skills Never Paddle Alone				

**Comments:**

I certify that I have checked this craft and find it meets the above requirements at the time of this Vessel Safety Check. I am a qualified Vessel Examiner of the: CGAUX \_\_\_\_\_ USPS \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_

VE(print name): \_\_\_\_\_ Examiner Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments:** This is not an official boarding for law enforcement purposes. It is **recommended** that you correct any deficiencies noted. This checklist is furnished for your information. There is no assumption of liability of any kind for advice given or opinions expressed in connection to this examination. By accepting the Vessel Safety Check (VSC) decal you are pledging to maintain your craft and equipment to the standard of safety exhibited during this examination.

**I am consenting to this Vessel safety check of my watercraft with full knowledge that it is provided to me as a public service on a volunteer basis without cost and I understand and agree that my receipt of a Vessel Safety check shall not constitute or be construed as a warranty or guarantee as to either the qualification, knowledge, or skills of the operator; seaworthiness of the vessel; or the serviceability or adequacy of any equipment on board. Please remove the decal if the craft is sold or no longer meets these requirements**

**Owner - Operator Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Owner / Operator Information</b>	<b>Details</b>
Assess the risk	Be realistic about what can go wrong and be prepared.
Good awareness (robust understanding of many factors impacting the voyage being undertaken). Know Before You Go.	Water temp, weather, waves, current, visibility, navigation skills, craft design limitations, physical conditioning, skill level, other craft on the water, local geography. Know and abide by the rules of the road.
<b>Safety Check Requirements</b>	
Sound signal (whistle, horn, etc)	Ideally attached to your life jacket.
Life jacket (adjusted to wearer & USCG approved)	9 out of 10 boaters that drown are not wearing a life jacket appropriate for the type of activity undertaken.
Overall the vessel is in serviceable condition	Leaky hulls, lines or fittings in disrepair, leaky bulkheads – are all reasons for VSC failure.
Navigation Lights (sunset to sunrise)	If operating between sunset and sunrise, or in restricted visibility, 1 white light (flashlight acceptable) or Navigation lights for a sailing vessel.
Visual Distress Signals (VDS) (sunset to sunrise)	If operating between sunset and sunrise a VDS suitable for night use must be carried. Either 1 electric light (flashlight) or 3 combination day/night flares. Expired signals do not meet the requirement and are unreliable if used.
Anchor Lights (sunset to sunrise)	Not required unless anchoring in or near a narrow channel, fairway, anchorage, or where other vessels normally navigate, or in restricted visibility – 1 all around white light, or an electric torch or flashlight.
Spray skirt – Waterproof barrier worn to create a seal with the cockpit coaming	Make sure the pull tab is on the outside and that the operator knows how to exit the boat while wearing the spray skirt.
Spare paddle / oars	At least one set per group.
Compass / GPS / navigation charts	Know how to use them & test in the conditions you expect to need them.
Tow / boat recovery system	Do you have a plan if you need help getting home? Practice these skills.
Marine radio (VHF) / cell phone / weather radio/PLB	Know how to use them & test them in the conditions you expect to need them.
<b>*Craft Recommendations</b>	
*Hull & deck sound	Even a small leak can let in more water than you can bail out.
*Hatch covers in good condition and secure	Submerge in controlled conditions and check hatch for water.
*Deck lines and bungee cords in good condition and secure	If you capsize, hold on to your craft. It can potentially blow or surf away faster than you can swim after it.
*Hardware secure and in working order	A malfunctioning rudder, skeg, etc. can be a significant liability.
*Bulkheads / air bags / emergency flotation in good working order	Many craft without flotation become unusable or sink completely when flooded. Flotation makes self or assisted rescues much easier. Unsecured flotation can be lost.
*Paddle / oars serviceable	Duct tape is excellent for an emergency repair.
*Contact information affixed to craft	Your name and phone number is sufficient.
<b>Other Recommendations</b>	
Always dress for an unexpected capsize, a helmet is necessary where upsets are likely	Cold water kills: cold shock - 1 minute, swimming failure -10 minutes, hypothermia - 1 hour. Resulting in unconsciousness/ death Always wear your lifejacket.
Personal ID on operator	Driver's license, credit card and medical ID is excellent.
Float plan with someone on shore	Route, duration, craft description, bail out options, etc.
Appropriate food and water Never Boat Under the Influence	Be prepared, you are completely dependent on the operator for mobility. Keep yourself well fueled.
Appropriate emergency kit (might include first-aid, knife, fire starter, boat repair, etc.)	When putting your kit together, bear in mind the type of activities you'll be doing and the conditions you'll expect to encounter.
Sun protection (sunglasses / hat)	Don't forget your eyes and skin.
High visibility clothing, gear, etc.	Retroreflective , brightly colored, luminescent, etc.
Appropriate self rescue system / skills	Practice in controlled situations similar to those you expect to encounter while operating your craft.