Coast Guard, DHS

§ 183.201 Applicability.
(a) This subpart applies to monohull outboard boats that are:
(1) Less than 20 feet in length; and
(2) Rated for outboard engines of more than 2 horsepower.
(b) This subpart does not apply to sailboats, canoes, kayaks, inflatable boats, submersibles, surface effect vessels, amphibious vessels, and raceboats.

§ 183.202 Flotation and certification requirements.
Each boat to which this subpart applies must be manufactured, constructed, or assembled to pass the stability and flotation tests prescribed in §§ 183.225(a), 183.230(a), and 183.235(a).

§ 183.205 Passenger carrying area.
(a) For the purpose of this section a boat is level when it is supported on its keel at the two points shown in Figure 2.
(b) As used in this subpart, the term “passenger carrying area” means each area in a boat in which persons can sit in a normal sitting position or stand while the boat is in operation. Passenger carrying areas are illustrated in Figures 3 through 8.
(c) The length of the passenger carrying area is the distance along the centerline of the boat between two vertical lines, one at the forward end and one at the aft end of the passenger carrying area when the boat is level as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. For boats with a curved stem inside the passenger carrying area, the forward vertical line is where a line 45 degrees to the horizontal when the boat is level is tangent to the curve of the stem, as illustrated in Figure 5. For boats with cabins, the forward vertical line is where there is a minimum distance of two feet between the inside top of the cabin and the water line formed when the boat is swamped and loaded with weights under §183.220 as illustrated in Figure 6.
(d) The breadth of each passenger carrying area is the distance between two vertical lines at the mid-length, excluding consoles, of the passenger carrying area when the boat is level as illustrated in Figures 7 and 8. For boats with round chines inside the passenger carrying area, the vertical line is where a transverse line 45 degrees to the horizontal is tangent to the arc of the chine, as illustrated in Figure 8.

§ 183.210 Reference areas.
(a) The forward reference area of a boat is the forward most 2 feet of the top surface of the hull or deck, as illustrated in Figure 9.
(b) The aft reference area of a boat is the aft most two feet of the top surface of the hull or deck, as illustrated in Figure 9.

§ 183.215 Reference depth.
Reference depth is the minimum distance between the uppermost surface of the submerged reference area of a boat and the surface of the water measured at the centerline of the boat, as illustrated in Figure 10. If there is no deck surface at the centerline of the boat from which a measurement can be made, the reference depth is the average of two depth measurements made on opposite sides of, and at an equal distance from, the centerline of the boat.

§ 183.220 Preconditioning for tests.
A boat must meet the following conditions for at least 18 hours before the tests required by §§ 183.225, 183.230, and 183.235:
(a) Manufacturer supplied permanent appurtenances such as windshields and convertible tops must be installed on the boat.
(b) The boat must be loaded with a quantity of weight that, when submerged, is equal to the sum of the following:
   (1) The sum of 50 percent of the first 550 pounds of the persons capacity marked on the boat and 12½ percent of the remainder of the persons capacity.
   (2) Twenty-five percent of the result of the following calculation, but not less than zero: The maximum weight capacity marked on the boat; less the weight shown in Column 6 of Table 4.
§ 183.222 Flotation material and air chambers.

(a) Flotation materials must meet the requirements in §183.114 as listed in Table 183.114 when used in the bilge, unless located in a sealed compartment.

(b) Air chambers used to meet the flotation requirements of this subpart must not be integral with the hull.


§ 183.225 Flotation test for persons capacity.

Flotation standard. When the conditions prescribed in §183.220 are met, the boat must float in fresh, calm water as follows:

(a) The angle of heel does not exceed 10 degrees from the horizontal.

(b) Any point on either the forward or aft reference area is above the surface of the water.

(c) The reference depth at the reference area that is opposite the reference area that is above the surface of the water is 6 inches or less.

§ 183.230 Stability test.

(a) Flotation standard. When the conditions prescribed in §183.220 (a), (d) through (h) and paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section are met, the boat must float in fresh, calm water as follows:

(1) The angle of heel does not exceed 30 degrees from the horizontal.

(2) Any point on either the forward or aft reference area is above the surface of the water.

(3) The reference depth at the reference area that is opposite the reference area that is above the surface of the water is 12 inches or less.

(b) Quantity of weight used. Load the boat with a quantity of weight that, when submerged, is equal to the sum of the following:

(1) One-half of the quantity of weight required by §183.220(b)(1).

(2) The quantity of weight required by §183.220(b)(2).

(c) Placement of quantity of weight: starboard side. Place the weight required by paragraph (b) of this section in the boat so that:

(1) The quantity of weight required by §183.220(b)(2) is positioned in accordance with §183.220(c); and

(2) One-half the quantity of weight required by §183.220(b)(1) is uniformly