

# California Life Jacket Laws & Requirements

Under California boating laws all **personal flotation devices must be readily accessible** and **one throwable flotation device must be immediately available**.

With the exception of kayaks and canoes, **every vessel must carry one wearable U.S. Coast Guard-Approved PFD for every person on board if the vessel is 16 feet or longer**.

**Inflatable PFD must be worn in order to be considered readily accessible.** Inflatable U.S. Coast Guard-Approved PFD are acceptable for persons age 16. Be aware that the fine is \$400 per person, skipper liable.

PFDs must be kept in serviceable condition. **If they are badly torn, damaged, rotted, punctured, or otherwise unserviceable, they no longer meet legal requirements and should be replaced.**

