

The Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) and Sound Signals

What is the RCD?

The Recreational Craft Directive (RCD) introduced a compulsory set of standards and guidelines for the build of new leisure boats since 6 June 1998. Compliant vessels carry a CE Mark on a mandatory plate. This European legislation applies to most leisure craft that measure between 2.5m-24m.

Does the RCD cover Sound Signalling?

The only sound levels covered by the RCD are ambient sound levels experienced in and around a craft. Sound signalling equipment (for example a ship's whistle or horn) is not covered by the RCD.

So what does the RCD Policy cover?

The Policy Officer for the RCD has made this statement.

“The Directive 94/25/EC on recreational crafts (RCD) sets out the (ambient) noise limits on recreational craft. It means that the craft in motion or the outboard engine when using a standard craft have to comply with sound specifications or prescribed limits.

“The details of measurement (of ambient sound levels) are described in harmonised standard EN ISO14509-1.”

So what doesn't the RCD Policy cover?

The Policy Officer for the RCD has made this statement.

“The directive **does not** specifically regulate sound-signalling equipment.

“Therefore recreational crafts are also subject to ColRegs rules at this matter.”

Jan Mayerhöfer

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