

3. Use capacity assessment formula

If your boat's dimensions are outside of those indicated on the assessment tables shown on the "six metre and over" and "flybridge" capacity label (for example if your boat has no flybridge and is over 15 metres) use the appropriate formulae below. These formulae are also shown on the back of the capacity labels:

For a boat six metres or over, without a flybridge:
Safe persons capacity = $0.75 \times \text{length} \times \sqrt{\text{beam}}$

For a boat six metres or over, with a flybridge:
Safe persons capacity = $0.6 \times \text{length} \times \sqrt{\text{beam}}$

Alternative methods of calculating capacity are also available on a technical information sheet, available by phoning Maritime Safety Queensland on (07) 3120 7354.

Flybridge

If you own a powered boat with a flybridge or upper deck with a second steering control, you should place two labels on your boat, one at each steering control, so they can be seen by the operator at all times.

Ensure the label on the main deck shows only the main deck capacity and the label on the flybridge shows only the flybridge capacity.

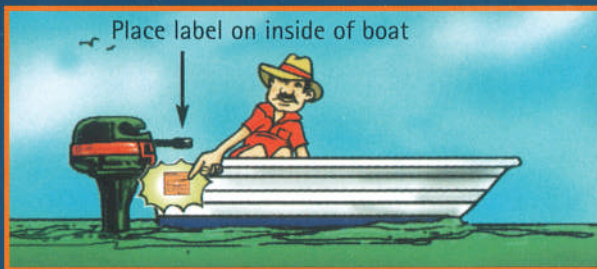
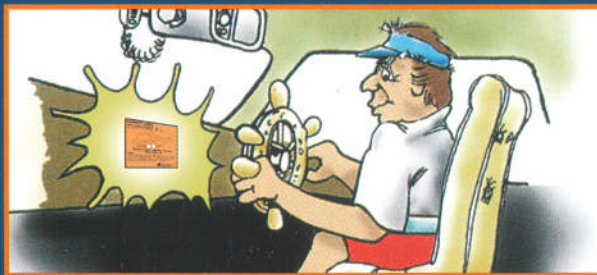
One quarter of the boat's total permitted number of persons, as indicated by the table or the formula, may be on the flybridge at any time. For example, if the boat's total safe capacity is 12 persons, the flybridge capacity will be three and the main deck capacity nine.

Attaching the label

1. Once you have calculated your boat's safe capacity, peel off the circular recommended capacity limit number and affix it in the space provided on the capacity label.



2. Select a flat highly visible surface area not more than one metre from each of the boat's steering control areas. To prepare the surface before applying the label, follow the directions on the back of the label to ensure best results.



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Don't go overboard overloading your boat

Capacity labels for recreational boats





Overloading

Overloading is dangerous and one of the easiest ways to capsize your boat. The more weight in the boat, the lower the freeboard*, which increases the chance of swamping and capsize. Overloading compromises the safety of everyone on board.

When planning a trip and preparing to embark, it is the responsibility of a boat's operator to monitor the load on board – both people and objects – so the boat and everyone on board remains safe.

This can be achieved by:

- storing heavy items low and central in a place where they cannot move around
- distributing the weight, including passengers, evenly through the boat
- compensating for the weight of extra fuel and water

* The freeboard is the minimum vertical distance from the surface of the water to the gunwale. The gunwale is the upper edge of an open boat.

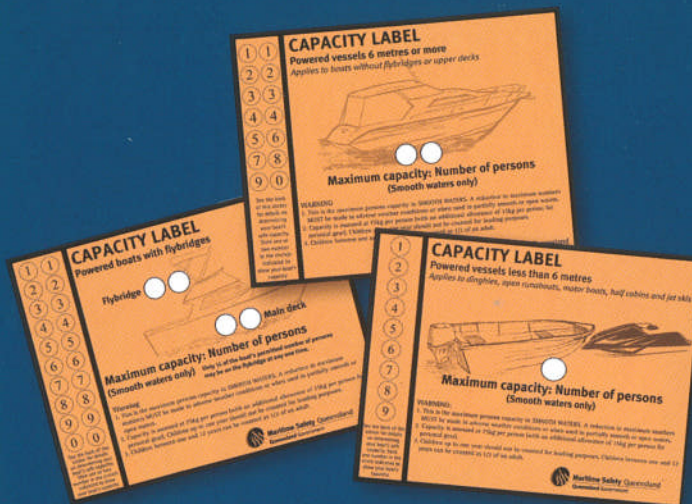
Capacity labels

By applying a safe capacity label you will have a constant reminder of how many people can safely board your boat in smooth waters, and in good conditions.

All registrable recreational ships, with the exception of inflatable boats and yachts with auxiliary motors, must have one or more capacity labels attached.

There are three different capacity labels available:

- powered boats under six metres
- powered boats six metres and over
- powered boats with a flybridge



Capacity labels should be placed near the boat's control area/s where they can be seen by the operator at all times.

The operator must keep in mind that the label indicates the number of people the boat can safely carry in good conditions – fair weather conditions in smooth waters.

When using the ship in exposed waters or in rough conditions, the onus is on the operator to consider reducing the number of persons taken on the trip.

Determining a boat's safe capacity

There are several ways to determine your boat's safe capacity to be indicated on the capacity label/s.

1. Australian Builder's Plate or Manufacturer's Plate

The quickest and easier way to determine your boat's safe capacity is taking the information from the Australian Builder's Plate or the manufacturer's plate if available. If your boat doesn't have one of these plates, you can contact the boat's manufacturer for details.

From July 1 2006, all new recreational craft manufactured in Australia will show an Australian Builder's Plate. Capacity labels are not required if your boat has either a manufacturer's plate or an Australian Builder's Plate, but only if these are clearly visible from each steering position on the boat. You should still consider affixing a capacity label if it provides a more visible reminder of your boat's safe capacity.

2. Use the capacity assessment tables

On the peel-off backing of each capacity label there is an assessment table. To calculate your boat's safe capacity, measure your boat's length and beam (width) and simply match these dimensions to determine the capacity. These tables are also available on the Maritime Safety Queensland web-site under the "Safety" link.

