

**SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN BOATING EDUCATION AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS
UNDER REGULATIONS OF STATE AGENCIES §§ 15-140f-1 and 15-140f-2
DURING THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

Pursuant to the authority granted by Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7JJ, dated May 6, 2020, issued in furtherance of his March 10, 2020 Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is issuing a suspension of "in person" classroom requirements for safe boating certification courses and associated examinations.

As stated in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 15-140f-1 concerning safe boating certificate course content, such courses must include "classroom courses with a proctored closed-book examination." Currently, all safe boating classes, whether conducted by DEEP full time staff, DEEP volunteers, private providers, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, or the U.S. Power Squadrons, are conducted in person with proctored exams. As stated in the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies § 15-140f-2, equivalency examinations shall be conducted "in person."

While it is important for DEEP to maintain the integrity of the course and the examination processes, the agency is also cognizant of the impact of the COVID-19 health threat on the public and agency personnel, and the restrictions imposed consistent with the Governor's public health and civil preparedness emergency declaration, which include social distancing measures that make a classroom setting for instruction and testing impracticable right now. Based on this assessment, DEEP considers it necessary to temporarily suspend any in-person requirements for boating education certification courses and examinations in order to protect students, instructors and staff.

In order to allow DEEP and other approved instructors to provide boating education during the COVID-19 emergency event, DEEP is temporarily issuing this suspension of in-person coursework and testing requirements from the date of issuance through the end of the public health emergency.

This action in no way impacts or suspends the requirements of boaters to obtain or carry their boating certificates before operating a vessel on Connecticut waters.

Executed this 8th day of May, 2020.



Katherine S. Dykes
Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection