

# Motor Cruising and Narrowboating on Inland Waters



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## Introduction

This is the third edition of the factsheet. Further editions will be published in the light of the experience of this edition. The publication of future editions will be notified in Scouting Magazine, Talking Points and the Activities Newsletter.

## General

This factsheet provides guidelines on the use of motor cruising vessels on inland waters. Typically this would cover narrow boats on the canals and pleasure cruisers on the rivers and Norfolk Broads, water classified by The Scout Association as B1 and B2.

## Authorisation

Cruising on inland waters must be under the direct control of or supervised by the District Commissioner on the recommendation of a County Water Activity Assessor. For County or special events and activities, authorisation may be granted by the County, National or Chief Commissioner. The Associations Scheme of Authorisation must be used. One person with every boat should be authorised by the District Commissioner.

The assessment for these authorisations will be based on the following three areas:

- (a) The person applying for authorisation should fully understand the responsibilities of the authorisation and be aware of the limits of their authority. They should be aware of the need and able to tailor the activity to the physical and mental needs of the young people concerned.

They should have read this factsheet and the factsheet "Water Safety (incorporating life jackets and buoyancy aids)".

This is the first and most critical aspect of the authorisation procedure.

Commissioners should consider every

application thoroughly before adding their supporting signatures.

- (b) The person who wishes to be authorised should be in possession of the necessary technical skills and theoretical knowledge.
- (c) The person applying for authorisation should have a good knowledge of the type of waters in which they intend to operate and should appreciate local hazards.

## Technical

The guidance below outlines the recommended minimum standard of competence in cruising on inland waters that should be achieved before any authorisation is granted.

There may be occasions when the person can show considerable experience without necessarily holding a national qualification. In such cases there should be an assessment of the person's technical knowledge and ability against that needed for the national qualification. Only in exceptional circumstances should be authorisation granted by for other than the control of one craft (e.g. when towing an unpowered 'Butty' boat).

A motor cruiser on inland waters is defined as 'any powered displacement vessel that is designed to accommodate the crew with fixed births and with a galley and toilets'. Only in exceptional circumstances will this be used on tidal waters.

## The Scout Information Centre

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Class of Water	Technical Level	Suggested level of Authorisation
Narrow Boating		
B2	Royal Yachting Association Inland Waterways Helmsman Certificate	Authorised to Motor Cruise
C/B1	Community Boats Association Certificate	Authorised to Motor Cruise
Motor Cruising		
B2	Royal Yachting Association National Motor Cruising Certificate	Authorised to Motor Cruise
C/B1	Certificate of Competence from a Recognised Community Boat Association	Authorised to Motor Cruise

## Safety

The following points are a summary of the key points from “Water Safety (incorporating life jackets and buoyancy aids)”.

### Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids

There must be a buoyancy aid for every person on board. Any non-swimmer (no more than one person per boat) must wear a life jacket when on deck or working locks.

### Swimming

Members of the Association taking part in a water activity must be able to demonstrate to a suitable person (such as a Scouter) their ability to swim 50 metres in ordinary clothes and keep afloat for 5 minutes. A non-swimmer may take part in some water activities at the discretion of the person in charge only if certain precautions are taken. There must be no more than one non-swimmer in any vessel. The non-swimmer must wear a life jacket of approved design and be in the charge of an adult. These last two conditions may be relaxed when below decks or protected areas.

### The Craft

The craft must have:

- A valid licence for the waters used
- Adequate marine insurance
- A current Boat Safety Certificate

All craft must comply with the local by-laws and codes of practice (e.g. “The Waterways Guide for Boaters” British Waterways).

## Publications Cross Reference

The current edition of:

- Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association
- Authorisation Scheme for Water Activities – FS120601
- Water Safety (incorporating Lifejackets and Buoyancy Aids) – FS120603
- Inland Cruising – Royal Yachting Association
- The Waterways Guide for Boaters – British Waterways
- Nicolsons Guides to the Waterways