



## Personal flotation devices (PFD)

Kansas law requires that all boats have one type I, II, III, or V PFD of proper size, in serviceable condition, not in an enclosed compartment, and readily accessible for each person on board or being towed.

Serviceability means that fastening hardware is not broken or does not work; that webbing straps are not ripped, torn or missing; that fabric tears have not resulted in loss of buoyant material; and that buoyant material is not hardened or contaminated. Overall, the PFD must be structurally sound and free of rotted or corroded components.

Readily accessible means the PFDs are plainly visible to the passengers, in an area that can be reached in an emergency without opening a compartment, wrapping material or reaching under part of the boat's hull to get to them.

**NOTE:** A type V PFD is **approved** only for the activity listed on the label and **must be worn** to be legal.

Persons 12 years of **age and under** are required to wear a type I, II, or III PFD **while aboard** or being towed by a boat. A life belt or ring does not satisfy this requirement.

Boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, also must carry one **type IV** throwable flotation device that is in serviceable condition and not in an enclosed compartment.

It is recommended that any person being towed on water skis, kneeboards, or similar devices should wear a properly fitted PFD. Each person operating or riding on a personal watercraft must wear a properly fitted PFD. Sailboarders are not required to wear a PFD, but it is recommended.

Inflatable PFDs are required to be USCG approved and must meet the general serviceability requirements for all types of PFDs and the additional requirements specific to inflatable PFDs.