



What do you need to know

In Canada, vessels are defined and regulated by how they're used. This can make it hard to know if a vessel is a pleasure craft or not, since many vessels can be used for both work and fun.

What's a pleasure craft?

- Any vessel used only for fun (cruising, water sports, sport fishing), or hanging out with family and friends
- Includes vessels used to hunt or fish for your personal use (subsistence living) or daily activities (like taking your pleasure craft to work or school)

If you're using the vessel for **anything** other than just fun, it's a non-pleasure craft. This means that you need to follow the non-pleasure craft rules in the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* and related regulations.

You **can** hire a captain or crew to operate a pleasure craft, but only if you use it for fun. Regardless of whether you own or rent your pleasure craft, **you're the only person who can hire and fire a captain and crew** of the pleasure craft.

What's a non-pleasure craft?

- Any vessel used for anything other than just having fun

If you're using a vessel for something other than just for fun, you must follow the non-pleasure craft rules in the *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* and related regulations.

Your vessel is considered a non-pleasure craft if you use it for activities such as:

- guided fishing and hunting trips
- carrying passengers for trips or transport
- workboats
- commercial fishing

Who's a passenger, who's a guest?

Canadian law defines a:

- "guest" as someone on a pleasure craft, but doesn't own or rent the pleasure craft
- "passenger" as someone on a non-pleasure craft that isn't the master, crew, or working on the vessel

Pleasure crafts can only carry guests, and people carried on board are not considered guests if you make money or profit off them. If you're taking friends or family out on your pleasure craft for fun and they split the cost of the fuel with you, they are still considered guests and the vessel is still a pleasure craft.

Examples of renting and hiring pleasure craft

Situation	Why is the vessel a “pleasure craft”?
You rent or hire a vessel from a company or owner and only use it for fun. No master or crew are hired.	You only use the vessel for fun. Canadian law is based on how you use the vessel, not how you rented or hired it.
You rent or hire a vessel from a company or owner and only use it for fun. You hire a master or crew to help operate the vessel. The captain or crew have no links to the rental company or vessel owner.	The company or person you rented/hired the vessel from isn't operating the vessel. As such, you have full control of hiring and firing decisions made regarding the captain and crew.

Examples of renting and hiring non-pleasure craft

Situation	Why is the vessel a “non-pleasure craft”?
You rent or hire a vessel from a company or owner and use it to transport workers to and from a worksite.	You're using the vessel for a business activity.
You rent or hire a vessel from a company or owner just for fun and are told you must hire a captain or crew that is either: • the vessel's owner, or • chosen from a list given to you by the company or owner	You don't have full control of the vessel as the owner, master or crew have operational control of the vessel. In these situations, the vessel is considered a non-pleasure vessel, specifically a “passenger-carrying vessel” or “passenger vessel”.

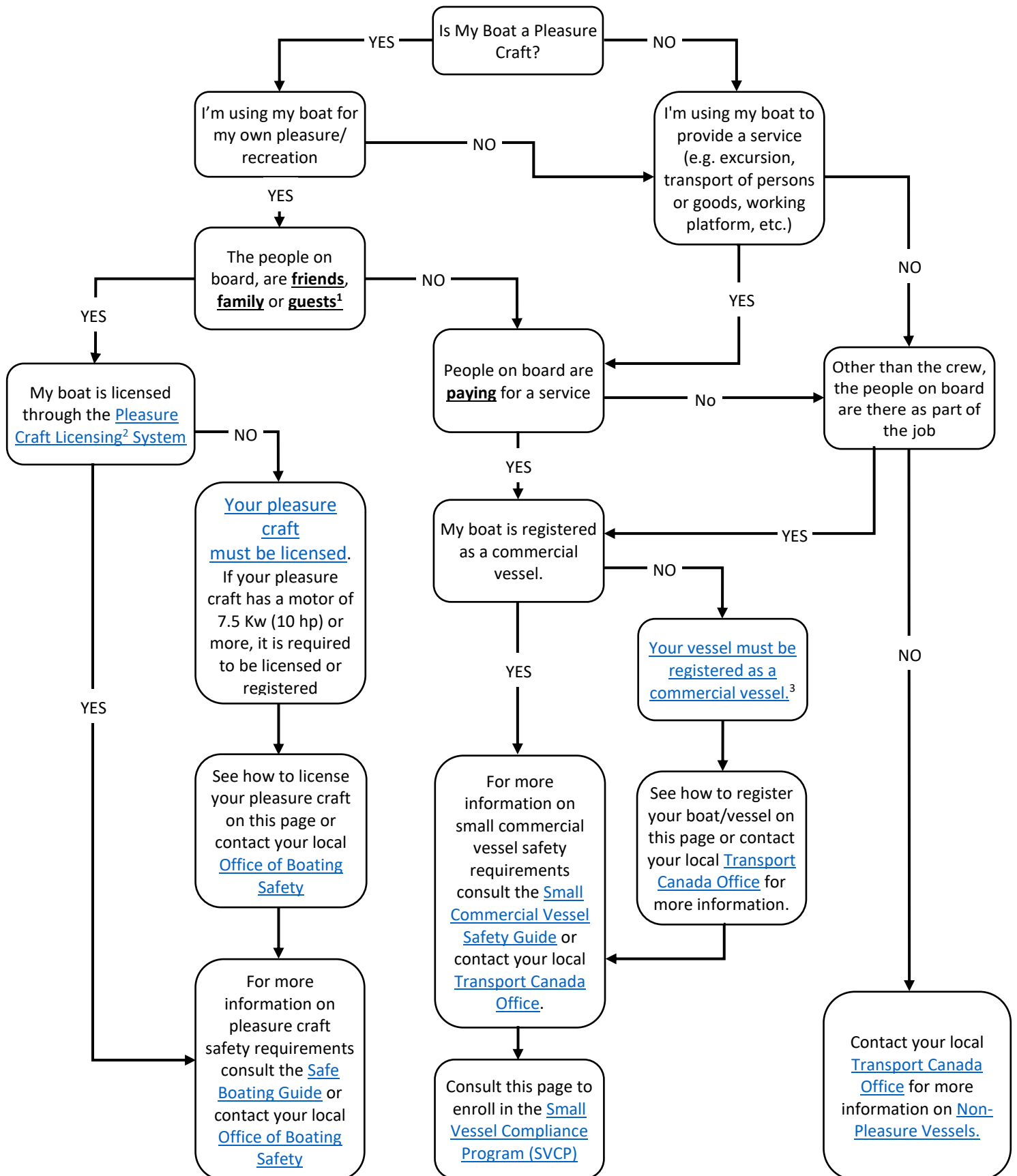
For more information, please contact your regional Transport Canada Marine Safety Office or visit our website:

Pleasure craft

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/office-boating-safety>

Non-pleasure craft

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/vessel-inspection-certification/vessel-inspection-certification>

Is my boat a pleasure craft or non-pleasure craft?

1 Guests are people carried on board a vessel used exclusively for pleasure and without remuneration or any object of profit.

2 A pleasure craft license has a combination of letters and numbers that do not begin with C, for example 50E12345, 13K12345, BC123456

3 Exempted Classes of Vessels are listed in Part 1, Section 1.1 of the [Vessel Registration and Tonnage Regulations](#).