

Steps to use National On-Water Standards (NOWS)

The American National Standards
for On-Water Instruction for Safer Boating

Step 1: Review the standards

Documents on this page identify national standards for *what* skills to teach and *how* best to instruct them on the water.

- a) **Download the Boating skills standard for the domain you want to review.** The document identifies *WHAT* skills students should be able to demonstrate as a result of participating in on-water instruction in entry-level recreational boat operation.
- b) **Download the Instructional delivery standard for the domain you want to review.** The document describes *HOW* to prepare and deliver high-quality on-water instruction that provides the skills identified in the Boating skills national standard.

Step 2: Assess and update your course

Documents on this page provide tools to self-assess your course against the national standards and make modifications or adjustments (if needed) to ensure the course aligns with the national standards.

- a) **Download and use the NOWS Self-assessment Checklist to assess your course.** Use Part 1 to assess your course against the boating skills national standard. Use Part 2 to assess the course against the Instructional delivery national standard.
- b) **Download and use the How-to Guides to make adjustments that align the course to the standards.** These provide helpful information, tips and tools to assist you with making changes to your course based on the results of your self-assessment.
 - a. Download Boating skills *How-to* guide to update the skills delivered in your course
 - b. Download the Instructional delivery *How-to* guide to update your delivery approach

Step 3: Declare and promote your course

Documents on this page help you declare your course follows the national standards and promote it to your customers and potential customers.

- a) **Download the Self-declaration action plan.** This document provides action steps and resources to declare your program follows the national standards for recreational boat instruction.
- b) **Download and use the NOWS Logo for promoting your course.** This document provides information and the NOWS logo to help market your course.

Disclaimer: This NOWS self-assessment and declaration action plan is advisory only and its use entirely voluntary. The National On-Water Standards (NOWS) Program, United States Coast Guard, United States Sailing Association, Think First Serve, METCOR LTD, and their subject matter experts and organizations involved in the development of this approach assume no responsibility whatsoever for the use of, or failure to use, its content or any instructional courses or programs on which it is applied, adaptations made for conformity purposes, or any consequences flowing therefrom. Users of this information are responsible for protecting themselves against liability associated with application of its content. This information is a guide to conducting a conformity assessment and is not intended to preclude attainment of desired results by other means.