

Finding Vessel Length/Beam

## Assessing and labelling

1. If the manufacturer's capacity rating is not available you will need to determine your boat's overall length and beam. Match the length and beam of your boat to the corresponding row/column in the table and then note the recommended safe persons capacity.
2. Peel off the circular recommended capacity limit number and affix it in the space provided on the capacity label.
3. Select a flat, highly visible surface area no more than one metre from the boat's steering controls. If the boat has more than one steering position, a capacity label will need to be applied in each area.
4. Wash or clean the surface to ensure it is free of dust, grease and salt. Don't use a chemical solvent as this may effect the label's adhesion to the surface. For glass surfaces, use methylated spirits, not window cleaner. Dry the surface thoroughly. Capacity labels have been designed to bond to a variety of boat surface materials including painted timber, aluminium, fibreglass and glass.
5. Ensure the label is applied to a cool surface. Hot or cold surfaces may effect the adhesive on the label.
6. Carefully peel the capacity label from its backing sheet and apply it to the cleaned surface, pressing firmly from the centre to the edges.

## Remember...

Capacity limits are the recommended maximum number of persons a boat can safely carry in good conditions. The onus on safety rests with the skipper at all times. When using the boat in exposed waters or in rough conditions, the skipper should consider reducing the number of persons taken on the trip. For other safety information visit the MAST website.

## Notes:

1. These are the maximum recommended persons capacities for boats when used in smooth waters. A reduction in the number of persons carried in a boat should be made in adverse conditions or when boating on partially smooth or open waters.
2. Capacity is assessed at 80kg per person (with an additional allowance of 10kg per person for personal gear). A child up to one year of age should not be factored into boat capacity rating calculations. Each child over one year and under 12 years should be counted as one half of an adult for the purposes of capacity rating calculations.

## Glossary:

1. **Freeboard** – this is the vertical distance from the waterline to the deck/gunwale.
2. **Beam** – the beam is the width of a vessel, at its widest part.
3. **Stability** – this is the ability of a vessel to return to its upright position after being heeled.
4. **Smooth Water** – where wave height, under normal conditions does not exceed 0.5 metres from trough to crest.
5. **Swamping** – this is where a vessel fills with water to the extent where it becomes submerged.

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# Don't Overload Your Boat



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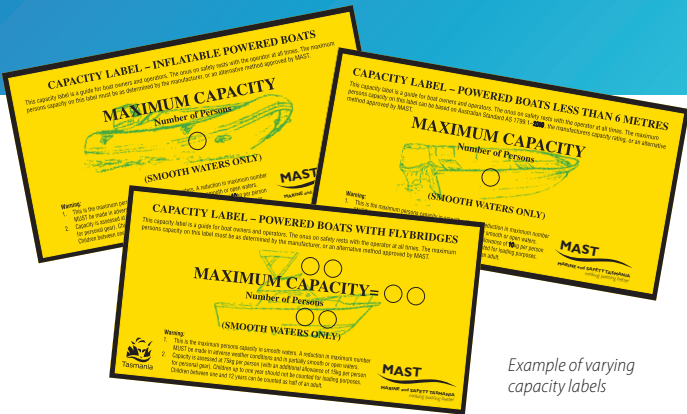
For more information visit  
[www.mast.tas.gov.au](http://www.mast.tas.gov.au)  
or call MAST on 1300 135 513

# Overloading can:

- capsize your boat
- lower freeboard
- affect stability
- compromise your safety

Know how to safely load your boat by:

- storing heavy items low and central in a place where they cannot move around
- distributing the weight, including passengers, evenly throughout the boat
- compensating for the weight of extra fuel



Example of varying capacity labels

## Capacity labels

By applying a safe capacity label, you and your passengers will know how many people you can safely have on board.

There are four different capacity labels available:

- powered boats under six (6) metres;
- powered inflatable rubber boats;
- powered boats six (6) metres and over;
- powered boats with a flybridge.

Capacity labels must be placed near the boat's control area where they can be seen at all times. The label indicates the number of people the boat can safely carry in good conditions (fair weather conditions in SMOOTH waters).

**Boats fitted with an Australian Builders Plate are not required to display a capacity label.**

## Determining a boat's safe capacity

Owners of boats under six metres will need to make a simple assessment of their boat's safe persons capacity. For boats other than inflatable boats, there are four methods:

- refer to the Capacity Assessment Table below;
- use the manufacturer's capacity rating or ABP if fitted;
- use an alternative method approved by Marine and Safety Tasmania.

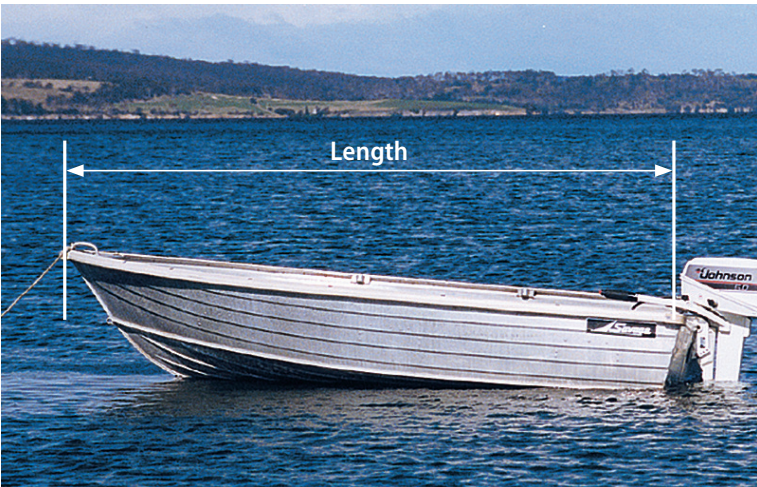
### Capacity assessment table powered boats under 6 metres

Length of Boat (m)	Recommended Maximum Number of Persons	Maximum Permissible Weight (kg)
Up to 3m	2	180
3m to 3.49m	3	270
3.5m to 4.49m	4	360
4.5m to 4.99m	5	450
5.0m to 5.49m	6	540
5.5m to 5.99m	7	630

Calculated in accordance with the Small Pleasure Boats Code (Australian Standard 1799.1-1992)

Alternatively, owners may use the boat manufacturer's nominated safe persons capacity which is often marked on the manufacturer's plate.

If you own an inflatable boat, you **MUST** use the manufacturer's nominated safe persons capacity.



The tables below cover boats up to 15 metres in length. If your boat is longer than 15 metres, a conservative capacity estimate can be obtained using the formula: (where length & beam are in metres).

**Safe persons capacity = 0.6 x length x √beam**

### Capacity assessment table powered boats 6 metres and over

Length of Boat (m)	Beam (m)					
	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
6	7	7	8	9	9	10
7	8	9	9	10	11	11
8	9	10	11	12	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10	11	12	14	15	15	16
11	13	14	15	16	17	18
12	14	15	16	18	19	20
13	15	16	18	19	20	21
14	16	18	19	21	22	23
15	17	19	21	22	23	25

#### Capacity assessment for flybridge boats:

If you own a powered boat with a flybridge, you should place two labels on your boat, one at each steering control area, so they can be seen by the skipper and crew at all times.

In determining the respective safe capacities of the flybridge and the main deck, one quarter of the boat's total permitted number of persons may be on the flybridge at any time.

### Capacity assessment table powered boats with flybridges

Length of Boat (m)	Beam (m)					
	2.5	3	3.5	4	4.5	5
6	4+1	4+2	4+2	5+2	5+2	6+2
7	4+2	5+2	5+2	6+2	6+2	7+2
8	5+2	6+2	6+2	7+2	7+3	7+3
9	6+2	7+2	7+3	7+3	8+3	9+3
10	7+3	7+3	8+3	9+3	9+3	10+3
11	7+3	8+3	10+3	10+3	10+4	10+4
12	8+3	9+3	10+3	10+4	11+4	11+4
13	9+3	10+3	10+4	11+4	12+4	13+4
14	10+3	10+4	11+4	12+4	13+4	14+4
15	10+4	11+4	12+4	14+4	14+5	15+5

N.B Numbers shown indicate main deck capacity plus flybridge capacity