

Boat Registration and Licensing 2017

General information

Summary of requirements for boat usage between the weir at the Old Dee Bridge and Farndon Bridge

Registration

Every private powered boat must be registered and licensed before use. All commercial boats must be registered before use whether powered or unpowered. Application for registration can be made by post to:

The Licensing Team, Cheshire West and Chester, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 0BE.

Alternatively if you wish to make your application in person or need an appointment or advice please:

- Telephone: 0300 123 7737
- Email licensing@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

If you are paying by cash, we would appreciate that you bring the exact money. We are able to accept payment by card. Please make cheques payable to Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Licence fees

Commercial boats

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • New boat first registration fee (annual licence) | £72 |
| • Pleasure launches (per seat) | £6.60 |
| • Self-drive motor boats (one - two seats) | £52 |
| Each additional seat | £6.10 |
| • Rowing/pedal boat (one - two seats) | £30.75 |
| Each additional seat | £6.10 |

Private boats

- | | |
|--|------|
| • New boat first registration fee (annual licence) | £72 |
| • Annual licence (payable in all cases) new or renewal | £122 |
| • Weekly licence | £58 |
| • Daily licence | £20 |

Please note

- The registration and licence disc must be fixed on the port side of the boat where it can be easily seen by the River Patrol.

- The annual licence expires on 31 December each year and requires renewal. Renewal reminders are sent out each year during December.

Insurance

All applications must be accompanied by a valid insurance certificate covering the following eventualities:

- Claims in respect of death or bodily injury to any other persons caused by or arising out of the use of the boat.
- Claims arising from collision with another craft
- Claims arising from contact with structure
- Claims arising from incidents of pollution
- Claims arising from grounding or sinking

Change of ownership

On sale or transfer of a registered vessel, it is the responsibility of the former owner to notify the Council. If the owner acquires another vessel, he/she will have to register again. Licences **cannot** be transferred from boat to boat.

Alteration to boat/change of engine

Any alterations to a registered boat or change of an engine **must** be notified to the Council **within one month**.

Seaworthiness

Generally, boats do not need to be tested before registration; the signing of the declaration on the application form will usually be accepted instead of a test. The Council, however, has the statutory right to order a test before or after a boat has been registered, the owner being responsible for any costs incurred. In the event of a boat test being necessary, proof of third party liability insurance will be required, prior to any vessel being launched.

Requirements for your boat

Before registration, all craft must be seaworthy. If your craft has to be inspected by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, a copy of this certificate must be appended to this registration application. The following are the principal requirements for your craft (as applicable).

- Seaworthy condition
- Safety equipment in good working order
- Adequate buoyancy aids for passengers carried
- Method of adequate securing, if unattended, to prevent damage
- Recognised mooring where applicable
- A horn or other device is required to give audible warning of approach
- A fire extinguisher is required
- The boat must be fitted with an efficient reverse, unless it is a low powered outboard of rapid manoeuvring

- Chemical or flushing toilets must not be used whilst the boat is on the river – **water companies draw drinking water from the River Dee**
- Boats to be used during the hours of darkness must carry navigation lights, there must be visibility at all times from the steering position
- The name of the vessel must appear on either the stern or bow of the boat

Navigation

- There is a speed limit of 6 miles per hour (mph) on the river, which must be strictly observed at all times.
- Careful navigation at all times is required, so not to endanger life or cause injury or damage to other people, boats or the river bank.
- On the river, the 'Rule of the River' is to keep to the **right** in the direction in which you are travelling.
- On the occasion of regattas, boat races or special events, all racing craft take precedence. On other occasions, users of motor boats are asked to observe the established maritime practice of giving way to unpowered vessels, eg. sailing boats and sculling boats and in particular, to have regard to the low freeboard of the latter.

Launching and mooring

Boats may be launched from the slipway at Sandy Lane, Boughton. Moorings are provided by the boat companies, proprietors, by private residents and by one of the riverside hotels.

Application for moorings should be made direct to these private owners, as the Council do not provide moorings.

Byelaws

- Attention is drawn to the Council Byelaws which give full details of the requirements and are available, on request from licensing@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- Breach of any Byelaw is a statutory offence and may lead to prosecution.

Further information

For further information about registering or using a boat on the River Dee call 0300 123 7737 or email licensing@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Boat licence application 2017

Schedule As this is a declaration by the owner, full details are required of the boat.		Official use only (please circle)		
		First registration	Annual renewal	
		Registration number Licence number Receipt number		
Owner details				
Name:				
Address:				
Postcode:				
Telephone number (including dialling code):				
Email address:				
Please tick which type of licence you require: commercial <input type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> Period of licence required: annual <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> daily <input type="checkbox"/>				
Boat details				
Name of boat				
Length of boat (metres)				
Beam of boat (metres) (maximum width)				
Draft of boat (metres) (maximum depth)				
Type of boat (please circle)	Commercial	Private	Powered	Unpowered
Maximum number of passengers:				
What life saving equipment is carried:				
Make and size of engine:				
Inboard or outboard:				
Maximum speed:				

Where the boat is normally kept:	
Details of onboard sanitation:	
Has the boat been registered before:	
Boat registration number:	
Details of insurance	
Name and address of insurers:	
Policy number:	Renewal date:

Application for boat registration

I wish to apply for registration of the boat described in the licence application form for use on the River Dee between the weir at Chester and Farndon Bridge.

Declaration

I declare that (as appropriate):

- The boat is equipped with an effective reverse (or is powered by an engine of not more than 4hp and is capable of rapid manoeuvring)
- There is a clear view forward from the normal steering point
- There is a means of giving audible warning of approach
- There is a fire extinguisher on board
- The boat is in seaworthy condition
- The name of the boat is displayed
- There are personal buoyancy aids

I am aware that it is an offence to:

- Use an unregistered boat on the river
- Use a boat without insurance
- Drive at more than 6 miles per hour (mph)
- Navigate so as to cause damage or injury to people or property or to endanger the safety of other boats, people and to the banks

I will notify the Council of any changes to the boat details given in the schedule within one month of the changes.

I will comply with the Council's Byelaws with respect to pleasure boats on the River Dee at Chester and am aware that any person contravening the Byelaws may be prosecuted and fined.

Please tick if you would like to be contacted to make payment by card over the phone

Signature **Date**

This form should be completed and returned along with the appropriate fee and a copy of a valid boat insurance certificate. Application for registration can be made by post to Cheshire West and Chester Council, Licensing Team, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 0BE.

Alternatively if you wish to make your application in person please call 0300 123 7737 or email licensing@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk for an appointment or advice.

Please ensure that your application is signed and dated. The licence will not be issued unless this part is completed in full.