

Bylaw on 10x20-foot Floats and Vessel Size Regulations

Table of Contents

- 1. Purpose**
- 2. Standard Specifications for Floats**
- 3. Compliance and Approvals**
- 4. North River Commission Authority to Modify Float Dimensions**
- 5. Safety and Maintenance**
- 6. Enforcement and Penalties**
- 7. Amendments**
- 8. Effective Date**

Section 1: Purpose

This bylaw governs the installation, use, and maintenance of 10x20-foot Floats or of other approved sizes to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. The primary objective is to guarantee the safety, durability, and usability of the floats while accommodating vessels of varying sizes in accordance with best engineering practices. The 10x20 foot float is established as the maximum default-dimensions recommended float size by the North River Commission for inclusion in any new Special Permit. Nothing in this bylaw shall be construed to reinterpret or modify standing specifications within the Protective Order.

Section 2: Standard Specifications for Floats

1. The maximum default dimensions for floats approved by the North River Commission under this bylaw shall be 10 feet by 20 feet, unless otherwise modified per Section 4.
2. Floats shall be constructed with materials, anchorage systems, and flotation devices that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements.
3. Floats must be capable of safely supporting the anticipated loads, including vessels, equipment, and human activity.
4. All seasonal floats and ramps are to be stored at a suitable upland location.

Section 3: Compliance and Approvals

1. All installations and modifications must comply with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations, Chapter 91, the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act, local conservation and environmental commission protection guidelines and local zoning and waterway ordinances.
2. All required permits must be obtained prior to construction, installation, or modification of the floats.

Section 4: North River Commission Authority to Modify Float Dimensions

1. The North River Commission may approve modifications to the default 10x20 foot float dimensions based on the size and type of vessels intended to be moored to the float in conformance with accepted US Navy, Coast Guard and marine engineering codes and standards of best practice.
2. Any modifications must align with the best engineering practices to ensure safety and structural integrity.

North River Commission 20251023 v1 FINAL

3. Modifications shall consider factors including, but not limited to:
 - Vessel length, width, and draft.
 - Water depth, currents, and environmental conditions.
 - Anticipated usage and load distribution.
4. All modifications must be reviewed and stamped by a licensed civil engineer or equivalent licensed professional. This certification will accompany any application to the North River Commission made by the applicant.

Section 5: Safety and Maintenance

1. All floats must include safety features such as non-slip surfaces, cleats, and adequate walkways.
2. Routine maintenance must be performed to ensure the longevity and safety of the floats.

Section 6: Enforcement and Penalties

1. Non-compliance with this bylaw will void any approved application or permit and the North River Commission reserves the right to withhold approval until compliance is achieved.
2. Subsequent changes made without permission of the North River Commission renders prior approved applications or permits null and void.

Section 7: Amendments

This bylaw may be amended to address changing regulations, advancements in engineering practices, or emerging safety concerns.

Effective Date:

This bylaw shall become effective upon approval by the North River Commission after the required public hearing process has been completed prior to the execution of this bylaw.