

TRANSPORT CANADA OFFICE OF BOATING SAFETY PACIFIC PLEASURE CRAFT COURTESY CHECK BULLETIN

Bulletin 04-07 June 25, 2007

Check Criteria for radar reflectors

This Transport Canada (TC), Office of Boating Safety Pacific PCCC bulletin is issued under the authority of the Regional Manager Boating Safety, Transport Canada. The information in this bulletin provides additional and updated information to the TC PCCC manual. **Any questions or enquires concerning this bulletin or any other particulars of the TC PCCC program are to be directed to Boating Safety Officer Mike Mitchell, Officer Primary Interest Transport Canada Pleasure Craft Courtesy Check Program. <mailto:mitchem@tc.gc.ca> (250-363-0099)**

Collision Regulations Part F:
Rule 40 Radar Reflectors

- (a) Subject to paragraph (b) a vessel that is less than 20 metres in length or is constructed primarily of non-metallic materials shall be equipped with a passive radar reflector.
- (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply where
 - (1) a vessel operates in limited conditions, daylight and favorable environmental conditions and where compliance is not essential for the safety of the vessel, or
 - (2) the small size of the vessel or its operation away from radar navigation make compliance impracticable.

The Office of Boating Safety (P) is a strong advocate of passive radar reflectors, given the high degree of radar traffic of both commercial and pleasure craft. Restricted visibility conditions are especially prevalent on the salt water which results in many boaters finding themselves in restrict visibility *unintentionally*. Additionally a passive radar reflector is a valuable tool for CCGA and CCG in Search and Rescue incidents to assist in locating a vessel in distress.

Radar reflectors can be obtained with deck mounting or rail-mounting hardware; many boaters have used their own ingenuity. In the past it was difficult for vessels without a mast to comply with the passive radar reflector requirements.

Is a Passive Radar Reflector Required?

Yes in most situations (*for the purpose of the TC OBS (P) PCCC program*) if the pleasure craft is operated in or *may be* operated in an area where radar navigation is present

- Under 20 metres and meets one or more of the following conditions
- Operated after sunset and before sunrise.
- Potential of operating in restricted visibility such as fog or rain/low cloud.
- Passive radar reflector can be installed with a rail, deck or mast mounting system.

Pleasure craft which are operated from or near urban area's, shipping lanes or other area's where radar equipped vessels are known to operated are required to comply with Rule 40 for the purposes of the TC OBS (P) PCCC check.

The radar reflector does not need to be permanently mounted to meet the PCCC requirements, but it must be onboard.

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Most pleasure craft over 6 metres should have a practical means of displaying a passive radar reflector. Some pleasure craft less than 6 metres **may not** have a practical means of displaying a passive radar reflector. The checker can use discretion when determining whether or not it is practicable for the owner to install a passive radar reflector and will note this in the comments box of the PCCC form.

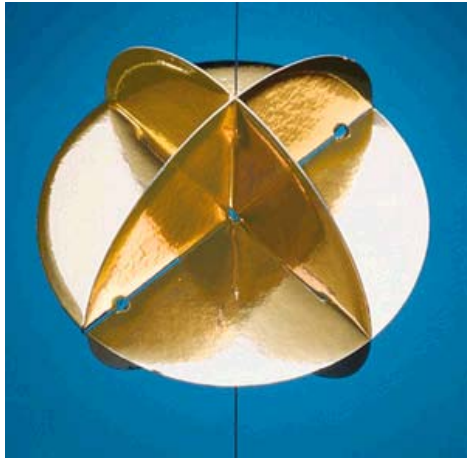


Radar reflector that measures
8"x 8"x 4" @ 2.2lbs mounted to Nav light pole

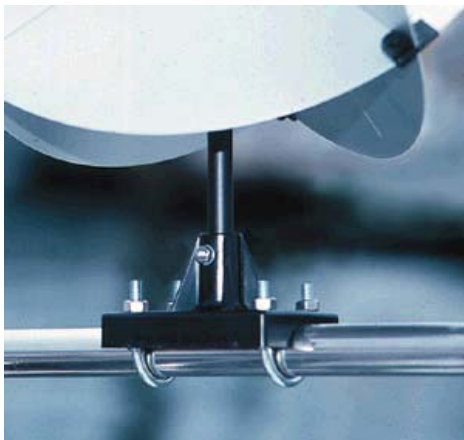


Surface mounting bracket

Low cost
Emergency
Radar
reflector



Surface mounting
bracket



Rail mounting bracket



Zap strapped to a rail