

## River Thames - guidance for event organisers

### Legal requirements for using the river and towpath

In addition to the general advice and information provided in the accompanying document, event organisers need to be aware of the following additional legal requirements related to use of the River Thames that may be relevant to holding an event. Any failure to comply with them may result in enforcement action.

1. The person in charge of every boat must comply with the directions of Environment Agency Waterway Officers relating to navigation or mooring.
2. All boats kept or used on the River Thames must be appropriately registered and must display the registration plate issued by the Environment Agency, or other appropriate identification indicating that they are registered through our agreement with British Rowing or the British Canoe Union.
  - For rowing events, Thames based or visiting competitors must ensure boats are registered in advance directly with British Rowing. For details of charges and how to apply, competitors should go to [www.britishrowing.org/boat-licences](http://www.britishrowing.org/boat-licences)
  - For canoe events, competitors' boats may be covered by our agreement with the British Canoe Union – see [www.bcu.org.uk](http://www.bcu.org.uk)
  - Other types of event (e.g. raft races, sailing regattas and dragon boat races) may qualify for concessionary registration charges for visiting participating boats.

Full details about boat registration are available at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/boatregthames](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/boatregthames)

For further advice on how to register, please contact our boat registration team on 03708 506 506, email [boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk) or by post to Environment Agency, PO Box 544, Rotherham, S60 1BY

3. Every person in charge of a boat must keep a proper look out and take all reasonable action to avoid a collision.
4. It is an offence to cause obstruction or annoyance to river or towpath users.
5. It is an offence to drive, place or leave a vehicle on the towpath unless there is a right of way.
6. It is an offence to place any works (e.g. temporary landing stages, piles, buoys etc) in or on the river without consent from us.

7. All river users need to comply with The Thames Navigation Licensing and General Byelaws 1993, available at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/boatingbyelaws](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/boatingbyelaws)

For further clarification or guidance, please contact your local Waterway office using the contact details provided in our accompanying letter.

**customer service line**  
03708 506 506

**incident hotline**  
0800 80 70 60

**floodline**  
0845 988 1188

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)