

New York State Canal Corporation

Design and Construction
Requirements for Reduced Speed
Buoys



Office of Real Property Management

TAP-923D (07/2011)

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I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Design and Construction Requirements for Reduced Speed Buoys (TAP-923D) (Requirements) is to provide specific, system-wide standards consistent with New York State Navigation Law and Canal Corporation Rules and Regulations for the annual placement of reduced speed buoys in certain areas of the Canal System.

II. APPLICATION

New York State Navigation Law allows the Canal Corporation (Corporation) to establish speed limits for operation of vessels on the New York State Canal System. Navigation Law dictates a maximum speed limit of 5 mph when the vessel is within 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, float or anchored or moored vessel. Allowable exceptions include vessel take off or landing when enabling a person to water ski. The Corporation, pursuant to the provisions of the Canal Law and New York State Navigation Law, has established the following speed limits for operation of a vessel on the Canal System:

- a. 5 mph anywhere on the Canal System within 100 feet of a dock, pier, raft, float or anchored or moored vessel; except when the vessel is taking off or landing when enabling a person to water ski.
- b. 10 mph on dug sections, except as noted in (a) above.
- c. 45 mph in canalized rivers, depending upon conditions, except as noted in (a) and (b) above.
- d. Speed in canalized lakes shall depend on the conditions of traffic, except as noted in (a) and (b) above, but shall not exceed 5 mph when within 100 feet of the shoreline.

The annual placement of a reduced speed buoy requires a Work Permit. The CANAL PERMIT APPLICATION (TA-99072) is available from the Division Permit Engineer or from the Canal Corporation's website (www.canals.ny.gov). Applicants must apply for a Reduced Speed Buoy Work Permit annually.

III. BUOY STANDARDS

Where the Corporation determines that placement of such buoys is consistent with New York State Navigation Law and Canal Corporation Rules and Regulations, a Work Permit may be issued in the manner and with the conditions described below:

1. Each eligible area will be marked by a maximum of 2 buoys, one delineating the beginning and one delineating the end of the area to be marked, pursuant to the Work Permit.
2. All buoys will be in line with the outer limit of the side of the channel being marked; buoys will not encroach into a section of the navigation channel marked by lateral aids.
3. Wording on buoys will be restricted to "SLOW 5 MPH."
4. Buoys shall be unlighted, constructed of closed-cell polyethylene (no ABS), cylindrical in shape and white in color, so as not to be mistaken for lateral aids, and must be approved by the Corporation. A horizontal band shall be at the top of the buoy, and near the waterline, with a circle in orange on each side of the buoy. All wording and numbers must be between the two (2) horizontal bands. Buoys shall extend above water line a minimum of 30 inches and a maximum of 42 inches.
5. The anchoring device, like the buoy, will be installed, maintained, and removed annually by the Permittee. The anchoring device must be sufficient as to keep the buoy on station under prevailing conditions. Buoys which are placed and/or moved off-station during high water or other events, may be retrieved by the Corporation with the flat rate removal fee of \$250 per buoy charged to the Permittee and any future requests to place a buoy may be denied.
6. Permittee will be responsible for the annual placement and retrieval of buoys and anchoring devices and for any associated costs with such placement and retrieval.
7. Buoys and anchoring devices remaining in the Canal System after navigation season or determined to constitute a hazard to navigation will be removed at the Permittee's expense. A flat rate of \$250 per buoy will be charged for the removal and any future requests to place a buoy may be denied.
8. Buoys and anchoring devices removed or retrieved by the Corporation will be stored at the nearest Canal facility. It will be the Permittee's responsibility to retrieve the buoys once the removal fee of \$250 per buoy has been paid.

9. The issuance of a permit to place a buoy(s) does not mean additional law enforcement resources will be available. The placement of a buoy does not create a new “No Wake” zone, as a buoy will only be permissible in areas where speed conditions are already in existence by virtue of New York State Navigation Law. The presence of such buoys will not trigger any new speed restrictions, or monitoring or enforcement responsibility on the part of the State, the Corporation and local marine law enforcement.