

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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APR 30 2007

Mr. Paul Donheffner
Director
State Marine Board
PO Box 14145
Salem, OR 97309-5065

Dear Mr. Donheffner:

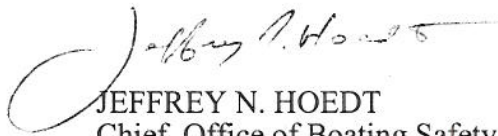
Thank you for your inquiry as to whether or not a "kiteboard" is considered by the U.S. Coast Guard to be a vessel.

In response to your request, my office has researched the criteria used and guidance provided in previous legal opinions regarding whether or not a specified device is a vessel under 1 U.S.C. § 3.

Based on the information available, the Coast Guard has determined that, when beyond the narrow limits of a swimming, surfing or bathing area, the device known as a "kiteboard" is a vessel under 46 U.S.C. § 2101, and therefore subject to applicable regulations administered by the U.S. Coast Guard and its Office of Boating Safety, unless specifically exempted.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention. If there is any additional information or clarification that I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


JEFFREY N. HOEDT
Chief, Office of Boating Safety
U.S. Coast Guard