

## Kayak Vessel Safety Check Guidance

**Acceptable Discrepancies - Kayaks (If found, these are not necessarily reasons to fail a kayak, but are discussed with owner/operator.)**

Equipment	Discrepancy	Discussion
Carrying handles - bow and stern	One or more is broken/missing	Carrying handles are for use ashore, and are not part of the afloat safety equipment.
Carrying handles - side		
Hatches (hinged or screw-in round covers)	Hatch(es) are permanently "welded" closed so that individual seal(s) can not be verified operational, but hatch will never be opened again. (No permanently entrapped water observed).	Owner option to reduce need for hatch maintenance.
Foot rest "pedals"; adjustable	"Pedals" are "frozen" in symmetrical positions.	User must "fit" the frozen pedals.
Pad-eye brackets for engaging shackles; hull mounted and <b>NOT</b> associated with seat back assembly installation	Empty rivet and screw rivet holes are permanently sealed	Water intrusion is prevented. Duct tape is not considered to be a permanent seal.
Drain Plugs (part of original equipment)	Original replaced by tight fitting, removable plug	Ensure tight fit and replacement plug is not subject to separation by casual contact, and there is no entrapped water inside the hull.
Bungee cords <b>not</b> associated with proper securing of hatch covers. <b>[Does not include original equipment grab lines.]</b>	Not in place or stretched out and not usable as envisioned by the manufacturer.	Common finding, in fact some owners remove them.
Paddles	Small broken out sections in paddle blade(s), no evidence of "spider web cracks" in damaged blade, blades properly attach to paddle shaft, and paddle shaft is undamaged.	The maximum size of missing paddle blade segments is considered self correcting; if the paddle does not provide required impetus, user will find another paddle.

## Kayak Vessel Safety Check Guidance

### Unacceptable Discrepancies - Kayaks (If found, these are reasons to fail a kayak)

Equipment	Discrepancy	Discussion
Drain Plugs (part of original equipment)	Missing or will not "screw tight"	Loss of buoyancy; easy water intrusion into buoyant chambers
	Drain plug hole is permanently sealed, providing no way to drain observed entrapped water.	Permanently entrapped water inside a kayak hull adversely affects buoyancy and maneuverability whenever the kayak is in use.
Hatches (hinged or screw-in round covers)	Hatch(es) operate, but do not properly seal; e.g., warped frame, or original equipment seal is missing or compromised	Loss of buoyancy; easy water intrusion into buoyant chambers
	Hatches do not open, and seal cannot be verified as in place and serviceable	Potential for easy water intrusion, and associated loss in buoyancy.
Foot rest "pedals"; adjustable	One or more pedal(s) are missing, or the pedals are frozen in asymmetrical positions.	Potential for inability to maneuver in an emergency situation
Water-tight bulkheads (internal); observable	Cracked or damaged	Loss of buoyancy and maneuverability in case of water intrusion
Internal buoyant apparatus; observable	Missing or not properly secured	Loss of buoyancy in case of water intrusion
Entrapped water that can't be drained	Evidenced by center of balance changes when handling the kayak. No means of draining the entrapped water	Loss of buoyancy and maneuverability
Seat and/or seat back assembly; detachable or built in	Missing, improperly installed, or evident damage that precludes proper paddler support	Seat backs ensure paddler and kayak stability and maneuverability.
Water tight hull damage	Cracks/holes in water tight hull anywhere on the hull. A failed repair implies that the original damage was not reparable.	Loss of buoyancy and maneuverability
Paddles	Blades not secured and/or shaft deformed/broken	Damaged paddles, as described, are not safely useable.
	Paddle blade exhibits "spider web cracks" that can lead to paddle blade disintegration under load.	
Deck edge "grab lines"; provided as original equipment	Either missing or cinched tight so as to make them difficult to use	Designed as an aid to re-board a rolled kayak