

# FOXHANGERS CANAL HOLIDAYS

## COMPANY POLICY STATEMENT

### *The issue and use of buoyancy aids to hirers*

In line with instructions set out in the British Marine Federation's Hire Boat Handover Procedures it is our desire to see that all non-swimmers and children are issued with and wear buoyancy aids whilst they are on the decks of our boats, around locks or simply close to the canal or riverside.

To this end we include comment in the safety section of the boat manuals as to the need for those people to wear buoyancy aids. As part of our handover procedures, we seek to raise awareness of the dangers of being on canal boats, and of falling into the water. We offer and assist with the fitting of buoyancy aids for children and non-swimmers.

To bolster this policy it is:

**Required** that all children under the age of 16 be provided with a buoyancy aid

**Required** all non-swimmers aboard a boat before 31 March or after 30 September be provided with a buoyancy aid in recognition of the temperature of the canal water

**Required** at anytime of year, non-swimmers and those with no experience of canal boats, be provided with a buoyancy aid when they are aboard a boat, which we are informed intends to enter the River Avon

**Encouraged** that all other crew members on board a boat that intends to enter the River Avon to take a buoyancy aid and wear it whilst the boat is on the river

We remain ready to issue a buoyancy aid to any person outside of the above groups wishing to wear one and will ensure all people boarding our hire boats are offered a buoyancy aid.

Where a person provides their own buoyancy aid/life jacket, we will not insist that they take one provided by ourselves but we will not accept any responsibility as to the suitability of them.