

Invasive Species Regulations

Regulation 6 NYCRR Part 576



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

In May 2016, statewide regulations known as the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Spread Prevention regulation, or 6 NYCRR Part 576, **require** that “reasonable precautions”, such as cleaning, draining and treating, are taken to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species prior to placing watercraft or floating docks into public waterbodies. Many New York counties, towns and villages also have laws in place that prohibit the transport of aquatic invasive species on boats, trailers and equipment.

Questions and Answers Pertaining to Part 576

1. When do the regulations become effective?

The Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention regulations become effective immediately upon publication of the final rule in the State Register May 25, 2016.

2. What waterbodies are included?

These regulations apply to all public waterbodies. Public waterbodies are defined as all waters within the state, public or private, except those private waters which do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface waters, which are wholly or partially within or bordering the state.

3. Are private and public launches included?

Yes, the regulations apply to both private and public launches on public waterbodies within the state.

4. What constitutes a watercraft or floating dock?

A watercraft means every motorized or non-motorized boat, vessel or vehicle capable of being used or operated as a means of transportation or recreation in or on water. A floating dock means a removable buoyant platform supported by floating devices or suspended over the surface of a waterbody by anchors or other devices.

5. Who do these regulations apply to?

These Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention regulations apply to all watercraft and floating dock operators on public waterbodies.

6. What actions are required by the watercraft operator?

The purpose of these regulations is to establish reasonable precautions, such as removing visible plant or animal matter, washing, draining or drying that must be taken by persons launching watercraft or floating docks into public waterbodies to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Material removed should be disposed of in a proper receptacle or upland location.

7. Are there any exemptions to the regulations?

The prohibitions included in 576.3 do not apply to any watercraft and associated equipment or floating dock that is re-launched from a launch site into a public waterbody, within the bounds of any permanent barrier that was removed from the same launch site without having been launched into any other waterbody.

8. What are the penalties for violating the regulations?

For any first violation a written warning may be issued along with educational materials. For a second offense a fine of up to \$150 may be issued. For a third offense a fine of up to \$250 may be issued. For a fourth offense a fine up to \$1,000 may be issued.