

# Registration & Titling



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Just as you must have a vehicle registration of your car, you must have a Connecticut Certificate of Number ( a registration document with assigned registration number) and two validation decals to legally launch, moor or operate your boat. The only exceptions are:

- Non-motorized boats;
- Unmotorized sailboats less than 19 ½ feet in length;
- Boats registered in other states using Connecticut waters for 60 days or less;
- Boats documented with the U.S. Coast Guard using Connecticut waters for 60 days or less;
- Boats owned in countries other than the United States temporarily using the waters of the state; and
- Vessels owned by the United States, a state or a political subdivision of a state being used in the performance of governmental functions.

## Vessel Registration

When you purchase a vessel, you are responsible for seeing that it is registered. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is the agency that handles boat registrations. Evidence of ownership must be submitted at the time of registration. Upon receipt of

the application and fee, a Connecticut Registration Number will be assigned. A Connecticut Certificate of Number (registration document) and two Connecticut Validation Decals will be issued. A Certificate of Number is valid until April 30 of the decal year. Connecticut registration numbers stay with the boat as long as it is registered in the state. A vessel is considered properly registered when you have a valid certificate on board and your numbers and/or current decals are properly displayed. (Exception: Recently registered boats operating under a temporary certificate of number need not display a validation decal until provided by the DMV.)

If you have questions or need more information call, the DMV Vessel Registration Information directly at 860-263-5718 or visit <https://portal.ct.gov/dmv> and select the "Registration & Title" button and select "Boats."

## Position of Registration Number and Validation Decals

The Registration Number must be at least three inches high, contrasting in color to the hull background and in block form. It must be painted on or attached to both the port and starboard bow of the vessel and positioned so it is visible and legible from at least 100 feet away. The registration number must read from left



to right on both sides of the vessel. A Validation Decal must be placed two inches to the right of and in line with the assigned registration number. No other letters, numbers or validation decals (other than the current ones) may be displayed.

### Vessels Numbered by Other States and Reciprocity

Documented vessels and vessels numbered by another state which are moored, docked or operated more than 60 days in Connecticut in any calendar year, must obtain a Connecticut Certificate of Decal from DMV and display a current Connecticut validation decal (but not a Connecticut registration number) on both sides of the bow. In addition, the owner must acquire a boating certificate that is recognized by Connecticut in order to operate the vessel on Connecticut waters. Connecticut boat users should check and obey local laws when operating in other states.

Note: Every entity leasing, renting or otherwise providing slips, dock space, dry storage, or moorings for vessels not registered in Connecticut is required to maintain a list of such vessels. Transient vessels need not be listed. The list must be available during normal business hours for inspection by any boating law enforcement officer. The rules for information collected differ slightly for those entities that provide such space

by lease and those that provide such space by membership. If you have any questions, please contact the Boating Division regulatory section at 860-434-8638. (CGS Section 15-150a)

### Certificate to Be On Board

A Certificate of Number or Certificate of Decal must be on board the vessel whenever the owner or any person authorized by the owner is aboard, except that rented boats may carry a rental agreement in lieu of a certificate.

### Connecticut Now Titles Boats

As of January 1, 2016, all motorboats and all sailboats 19.5 feet in length or longer are required to be titled through the Department of Motor Vehicles IF:

- They have a model year or construction date of 2017 or later; and
- They are registered in Connecticut where Connecticut is identified as the state of principal use; and
- They are NOT documented with the United States Coast Guard or titled in another state.

The fee for titling a vessel is \$25.00.

For more information, go to our website

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Boating-and-Paddling> and click on Boat Registration/Abandoned Boats button

## Taxability of Vessels and Trailers

As a general rule, when a Connecticut resident or an individual who maintains a place of abode in Connecticut buys a vessel or trailer, Connecticut sales or use tax is due. The sales tax will be 6.35% of the purchase price for vessels and trailers used for transporting a vessel **with a purchase date before July 1, 2018**. Vessels and trailers used for transporting a vessel **purchased on or after July 1, 2018** will be charged a tax rate of 2.99 percent.

Out-of-state residents or nonresident entities that have purchased a vessel with the intent of using it in Connecticut waters must pay a Connecticut use tax. This Connecticut use tax liability must be reported on the "Individual Use Tax" line of the purchaser's Form CT-1040 NR/PY Connecticut Nonresident Income Tax Return. This use tax can be offset by documenting that sales or use tax has been properly paid to another state or municipality.

For Further Information: Call the Department of Revenue Services during business hours, Monday through Friday: 1-800-382-9463, or 860-297-5962 TTY, TDD and Text Telephone users only may transmit inquiries anytime by calling 860-297-4911.

## Change of Address/ Change of Ownership/ Change of Registration Status

If you change your address or sell or otherwise dispose of your vessel, you must, within 15 days and in writing, notify the Department of Motor Vehicles, Marine Vessel Section, 60 State St., Wethersfield, CT 06161. In the case of an address change, keep your Certificate of Number on the boat after updating the address on the back of the certificate. We recommend that you send the notification by certified mail and keep a copy of the cancellation along with any receipts from the post office.

## Hull Identification Number (HIN)

The Hull Identification Number (HIN) is a unique, 12 character string, assigned by the manufacturers to vessels built after 1972. HINs identify one vessel from another. The HIN is usually found on the starboard side of the boat's transom. The HIN should be recorded by the owner and put in a place other than the boat in case warranty problems arise or the vessel is lost or stolen. Owners of registered vessels manufactured after October 1, 1972, that do not have a HIN should call the Boating Division at 860-434-8638.

### Useful Forms Available on the DMV Website

AU-463 - Motor Vehicle and Vessel Gift Declaration

B58 - Change of Address - For Individuals/  
For Organizations

B96 - Correction of Information For Vessels

B148 - Vessel Registration Application

B203 - Vessel Ownership Affidavit

B220 - Documents Required for Vessel Registration

B229 - Commercial Fishing Affidavit

H31 - Bill of Sale

J23V - Vessel Copy Records Request

<https://portal.ct.gov/DMV>

### CHECK YOUR HIN!

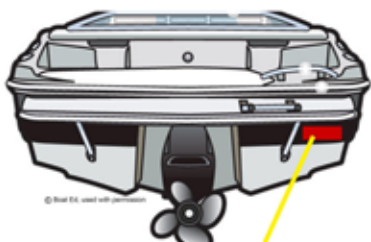
If your boat was made after 1972 then the Hull Identification Number (HIN) on your registrations MUST match the HIN on your boat or you may have some explaining to do if checked by law enforcement.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
VESSEL REGISTRATION

THIS CERTIFICATE TO BE KEPT ABOARD THE VESSEL WHILE IN USE

REGISTRATION NO.	EXP. DATE	HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	STATE OF PRINCIPAL USE
CTA131C	04/25/22	RE583740000	CT
NAME	MODEL	YEAR	TYPE
FORREST	87348	COM	3.6
PROF. OCC.	HULL MATERIAL	VEHICLE	REGISTRATION
OUTBOARD	PLASTIC	2000	2000
USE	PLATE	ISSUE	EXPIRES
PLEASURE	0	08/28/20	05/02/24

REGISTRATION NO. 06/24/00 7.50



ABC12345H919

The HIN is typically located on the OUTSIDE of your boat, on the upper right hand corner of the transom. If your boat doesn't have a transom, like a canoe or kayak, then the number will be at the rear of the vessel, on the starboard (right hand) side, near the toprail. If your boat is a pontoon or catamaran, check the back of the starboard pontoon, or aftmost crossmember.

If needed, HIN corrections can be made with the DMV using the DMV form B-96. Be prepared to provide photographs or rubbings as proof of the actual number.