



Licence markings

Proper documentation

Licensing your pleasure craft

Sometimes proof of competency is also referred to as a licence to operate a pleasure craft. The two are not the same. In most instances what people actually want to know about is the requirement to carry proof of competency (see page 11).

A pleasure craft licence is for your boat.

Pleasure craft less than 15 gross tons (12 m or less) and powered by an engine of 10 hp (7.5 kW) or more must be licensed or registered, regardless of where they operate in Canada. A licence is free-of-charge and can presently be obtained through the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Refer to the blue pages in your telephone directory to contact your nearest CBSA office or call 1-800-461-9999.

Pleasure craft licensing is being modernized. It is expected that by April 2006, Service Canada will assume responsibility for issuing pleasure craft licences through their offices. In New Brunswick, Service New Brunswick Centres will also issue licences. For more information about this change, visit www.boatingsafety.gc.ca or call 1-800-0-CANADA.

When entering another country, vessels must have some form of documentation (a licence and/or proof of ownership or registration), especially dinghies or tenders that accompany a larger vessel. Remember, dinghies or tenders equipped with an engine of 10 hp (7.5 kW) or more must be licensed separately. Not having the proper documentation with you at all times can result in delays clearing United States or Canada Customs, or even a fine. Proof of ownership

for non-registered pleasure craft may be required. Check with the CBSA before setting out.

By law, you must display your pleasure craft's licence number above the water line on both sides of the bow, as far forward as practical and where it can easily be seen. The numbers must be in block letters, 7.5 cm (3") in height and must contrast with the colour of your pleasure craft's bow.

New pleasure craft?

To license a new or previously unlicensed pleasure craft you must complete an Application for Pleasure Craft Licence and have a bill of sale (or proof of ownership). If your bill of sale (or proof of ownership) is not available, you need a Declaration Under Oath stating why.

Contact the Canada Border Services Agency if you are unsure of what you need to license your pleasure craft.

Transferring ownership

When transferring ownership of your boat, complete the information required and follow the instructions on the reverse side of the Pleasure Craft Licence and give it to the new owner. With the completed transfer form (reverse side of the Pleasure Craft Licence), the new owner should contact the Canada Border Services Agency for additional information.



Call the Canadian Registry of Ships and Small Commercial Vessel Licensing at 1-877-242-8770 for more information.

Registering your pleasure craft

Registration is a system that provides legal title and certain benefits such as a unique name and an official number for your boat. Vessels greater than 15 gross tons (greater than 12 m) must be registered. Smaller vessels can be registered, but the choice is yours. Registration also allows you to use your boat as security for a marine mortgage.

Remember, pleasure craft less than 15 gross tons (12 m or less) and fitted with a motor of 10 hp

(7.5 kW) or more must be licensed or may be registered. This requirement includes personal watercraft. The choice is yours to license or register any small vessel, but pleasure craft over 15 gross tons (greater than 12 m) must be registered.

Heads up! When the 2001 *Canada Shipping Act* comes into force, registering your pleasure craft will be optional. If not registered, pleasure craft fitted with a motor or motors equal to 10 hp (7.5 kW) must be licensed under the new Act.