



VESSEL IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION & TITLING NEWSLETTER

Latest news, updates & information

Volume 3, Issue 2

Digital Certificate of Number for State Numbered Vessels

Effective 07/04/2024

This final rule is intended to amend the Coast Guard's requirements for a Certificate of Number (CON) for vessels to allow any CON to be carried in hard copy or digital form. This aligns the current CON requirements with statutory changes made by The James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

Final Rule



Self-Import Affidavit for Vessels Being Imported for "Self-Use" and Not for Resale

This best practice provides a process for states to validate self-imported vessels through an affidavit. Affidavits can be useful for law enforcement for the illegal importation of vessels by ensuring that recipients of these vessels provide a lawful statement attesting to the legal means of entry of the vessel.

Best Practices for Self-Imported Vessels

Boat Ownership Longevity

Most of today's boat owners have been boating for quite some time. In fact, well over half of them purchased their first boats more than 15 years ago and are now, on average, 63 years old. Meanwhile, about 15% of today's boat owners purchased their first boats within the past 4 years, mostly during the pandemic, and are still in the process of "learning the ropes".

This presents an interesting challenge / opportunity from a boating safety education and outreach perspective because some people are in fact "newbies" while many others probably consider themselves to be avid boaters.

Years Since Current Boat Owners Purchased Their First Boat

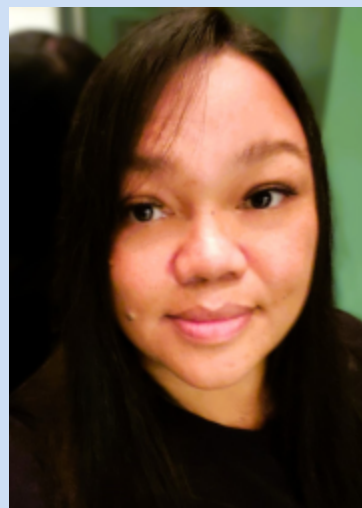


Ownership longevity doesn't necessarily translate to safer boating. In fact, one could argue that complacency can become one's worst enemy. With this in mind, it's critical that we continue to communicate the importance of boating safety to both audiences recognizing that their perspectives are different. New boaters are likely to be more receptive to basic safety training while more experienced boaters may require a different approach -- perhaps one that acknowledges their experience while reminding them they have an added responsibility to exhibit safe boating habits, especially around other boaters. Food for thought.

Registration & Titling Spotlight

Josett Cruz, Guam Police Department

Meet one of our newest VIRT members. We are excited to have **Josett Cruz** from far away Guam! Josett became a member in November 2023 and recently finished the NASBLA Leadership Academy. We are excited to have her on the VIRT team and have enjoyed working with her.



What is your job position and how long have you worked for your division?

I am a Programs Coordinator with the Guam Police Department, and I joined in October 2023.

What is your favorite VIRT resource?

My favorite resource of VIRT has been the invaluable access to the wealth of knowledge and experience VIRT members from across the nation bring to the table. I also appreciate the listing of Best Practices on the [VIRT page of the NASBLA website](#).

What is a fun fact and/or unique thing about Guam?

Guam is 14 hours ahead of the U.S. East Coast, so a commonly used slogan is 'Guam is Where America's Day Begins.' Since this time difference makes Guam a day ahead of the United States, when we travel to the U.S., we are traveling back in time, and when we return to Guam, we are returning to the future.

Read More

How can we give you a hand?

Do you have questions about titling and registering watercrafts?

Looking for guidance on state assigned HINs?

Reach out to Rick Barrera at rick@nasbla.org, a VIRT Committee member will contact you!

VIRT Resources

VIRT Committee webpage

NASBLA Public Library: VIRT

[Registration Dashboards](#)

[NASBLA Connect](#)

[What is the VIRT Committee?](#)

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National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40513
859.225.9487

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1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40513