

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee (Revised 9/25/18)

Committee Charter

Recognizing that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data, the Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee works to advance boating safety by analyzing and advocating for thorough and precise vessel identification throughout a vessel's chain of ownership from the hull numbering to registration to titling.

Subcommittees for 2019 are Numbering & Titling Subcommittee and the Vessel Identification System (VIS) Coordination & Implementation Subcommittee.

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Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee

5-YEAR PLANNING GOALS

1. Have a universal Title Act in place based on the work of NCCUSL with an objective of 10% of the states or territories adopting [some form of] the Title Act into their vessel title laws.
2. Work with non-title states and territories in the adoption of vessel titling with a goal of adding more states and/or territories onto the list of those that title vessels.
3. Assist states with planning for implementation of required changes to Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Reporting Database.
4. Encourage adequate resources and support be directed to National Vessel Documentation Center for notification to the states to occur. Increase awareness of the issue to the recreational boating professional's community.
5. Review the process of VIS, from becoming a member to the overall usage of the program, and make recommendations to strengthen its value as a resource to the states. Obtain a goal of adding 5 to 10 more states to the membership in 5 years.

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee Numbering & Titling

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The Numbering & Titling Subcommittee works and advocates for uniformity in the vessel registration and titling process. Areas of focus for the subcommittee include the Standard Numbering System, the Uniform Certificate of Title Act (UCOTVA), titling systems, and collection and dissemination of data on state numbering and titling.

VIRT_N&T_2019-1: National Vessel Documentation Center

Encourage adequate resources and support be directed to **National Vessel Documentation Center** for notification to the states to occur. Increase awareness of the issue to the recreational boating professionals' community.

Charge Leader: Vicki Rhodes (DE)

Team Member(s): Jack Ellis (Info-Link), Rick Barrera (NASBLA)

Needs Statement: When a vessel is documented by the NVDC, states need to be notified it has been documented in order to update their registration/titling records. By notifying the state this will alleviate registrations/titles not be cancelled in a state when a vessel is documented and will allow states to keep a more accurate record of vessels nationwide. VIRT recognizes that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data.

Projected Deliverable: Documentation Center would be able to notify the States when a vessel is documented.

VIRT_N&T_2019-2 : Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act

Assist the states and work with NCCUSL through their Enactment Committee, with promoting and supporting adoption of the **Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act**. Review resources on the NCCUSL website and suggest updates as needed. Identify new support materials needed and produce as necessary. Increase access and visibility of the NCCUSL website and all available resources for NASBLA members.

Charge Leader: Caroline Mantel (Boat History Report)

Team Member(s): Libby Yranski (NMMA), Darren Rider (TN), Mike McGlockton (FL)

Needs Statement: Supporting UCOTVA is essential in making changes to positively influence consumer safety by creating consistency among states in regards to titling and identifying vessels that have been deemed unsafe, preventing them from being sold without disclosure. By having the support of the VIRT Committee, we are able to brainstorm potential sponsors within states and assist NCCUSL by identifying more productive points of contact and feedback. Members of VIRT can also help identify what the specific hesitations are within registration and titling departments in order to try and overcome those objections more quickly. VIRT recognizes that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data, and UCOTVA helps to ensure that vessels chain of ownership is kept intact from owner to owner and state to state.

Projected Deliverable: Status of each state in pursuing the adoption.

VIRT_N&T_2019-3 : HIN Validation

1. Work with the USCG to finalize the HIN format for state assigned HINS when the year of the vessel is known. Deadline for this to be ready is the BLA Workshop, February 28, 2019.
2. Expand the use and development of educational products to inform states and their agents about **HIN Validation**. Revise and promote the use of the “HIN Verification & Validation” Power Point that was developed in 2016 and revised in 2017 as a “Registration & Titling 101” educational product targeted to frontline registration and titling personnel.

Develop resources to assist states in setting up a **HIN Validation system** to prepare for the implementation of the regulatory changes in the Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Report Database. Final Rule issued March 28, 2012. Deadline for states to begin HIN Validation was January 1, 2017.

Charge Leader: Caroline Mantel (Boat History Report)

Team Member(s): Chris Fallon (NY), Jack Ellis (Info-Link), Jeff Decker (USCG), Will Hillyer(USCG),

Needs Statement: By providing training and implementation of this educational HIN PowerPoint tool to all States, each state will be able to provide the identical vessel information to all federal/state agents and law enforcement throughout the United States. Furthermore, implementation and training of the HIN PowerPoint will prepare and assist each state for the regulatory VIS changes that will be taking place. Currently, VIRT is waiting on a list of states that are not compliant from the USCG.

Projected Deliverable: Create a state assigned HIN Format Policy with the USCG, get Executive Board approval, then have the USCG adopt as a policy. Update the HIN Power Point with it and distribute to all BLA's and R & T State contacts and post on NASBLA Connect and the NASBLA VIRT Web Page. Assist states in becoming compliant with 1/1/17 changes.

VIRT_N&T_2019-4 : NASBLA Connect Online Community

Maintain the **online community** through NASBLA Connect to expand and facilitate discussions about recreational boating numbering and titling issues and resolutions with agencies and personnel involved in this field of work.

Charge Leader: Rick Barrera (NASBLA)

Team Member(s): Jennifer Doering (WY)

Needs Statement: An online community through NASBLA Connect will assist states with various questions on Numbering and Titling. It is currently populated with information on assisting the states with the implementation of the USCG's SNS, VIS and BARD requirements effective 1/1/17. It will be used as a resource for various information and house the products that the VIRT committee has developed such as current information on states registration fees, the states participating in VIS, and best practices.

Projected Deliverable: Continue to populate the VIRT Committee Connect Library with resources in the library function.

VIRT_N&T_2019-5 : Current Registration Fees

Maintain an online reference where states can go to find **current registration fees**, including titling fees. This should also include documented vessel fees for each state. Update the current registration and titling fees, encourage non-responsive states to participate, and add additional questions as the charge sees fit.

Charge Leader: April Hughes (AZ)

Team Member(s): Caroline Mantel (Boat History Report), Julie Aronow (TX), Paula Lannen (NV), Vicki Rhodes (DE)

Needs Statement: The following charge is to manage a tool for states to benchmark other states registration and titling fees. This information will continue to be maintained on NASBLA Connect for states to view. We also need to develop a plan so the states may update their information when needed.

Projected Deliverable: Revise & update the current registration fees, post it on NASBLA Connect, figure out how to have states update (notify) of changes.

VIRT_N&T_2019-6: Maintaining Correct HIN Records

The primary issue is that HIN's are being recorded incorrectly and differently across different platforms (i.e. documentation vs registration, accident reports, etc...), and thus each person that touches a HIN could possibly interpret it as something completely different than the previous record, as there is no regulation that mandates the use of serifs.

Charge Leader: Julie Aronow (TX)

Team Member(s): Jack Ellis (Info-Link), Will Hillyer (USCG), Caroline Mantel (Boat History Report), Chris Fallon (NY)

Needs Statement: This is a national issue across law enforcement, USCG, registration and titling agents, insurance, financial institutions, marine investigators, etc... Although the 1/I and 0/O should not be an issue due to the Federal requirement in 33CFR181.25, it is still a common issue as the numbers 1 and 0 are stamped exactly the same as the letters I and O for many manufacturers. Additionally, the following are commonly mistaken: 8/B, 0/O, 0O/CDG, and 1/I.

Project Deliverable: VIRT has discussed with ABYC and NMMA to ensure they would support a Best Practice Document as a recommendation for manufacturers to follow to eliminate confusion or altered HIN's.

Project: Approval by Executive Board of a Best Practices document that would suggest that manufacturers use a style that includes serifs or some other specific feature that would make discerning an 8/B, 0/O, 0O/CDG, and 1/I quick and easy.

VIRT_N&T_2019-7 : Legacy HIN Documentation & Best Practice

Charge Leader: Jack Ellis (Info-Link)

Team Member(s): April Hughes (AZ), Will Hillyer (USCG), Jennifer Doering (WY), Caroline Mantel, (Boat History Report),

Needs Statement: This is a national issue. Based on results from the 2018 survey, we will create a "Best Practice" for states to use as a guideline for Legacy HIN's. Additionally, we will need to come up with a way to include the legacy HIN on interstate documents to ensure the original HIN is not lost and is available for agencies/individuals investigating the history of the vessel (i.e. law enforcement, insurance companies, potential owners, etc.) This is important to ensure the history of the vessel is not lost, and to help prevent stolen vessels being registered across state borders.

Project Deliverable: VIRT will follow up with USCG to find out what the official USCG guideline is as well as feasibility if including within VIS, and then work with the USCG to create a Best Practice for states to reference.

Product: Approval by Executive Board of the "Best Practices Document for Legacy HIN" for states to use in program uniformity.

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee VIS Subcommittee

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The Vessel Identification System (VIS) Coordination & Implementation Subcommittee works to assist the Coast Guard and the states with implementation of the Vessel Identification System and to provide guidance resources for states as they join and implement the VIS.

VIRT_VIS_2019-1 : State Participation in VIS

Provide support for **states participating in VIS**. Identify and address barriers to participation for non-participating states. Identify a most wanted list of states the committee would like to focus on getting enrolled in VIS

Charge leader: Darren Rider (TN)

Team Member(s): Stephanie Weatherington (AR), Brenda Verner (PA), Eric Lundin (CT)

Needs Statement: It is important that as many states as possible be enrolled in the system so that states can identify vessels for marine theft, registration, and titling purposes. There is a continued need to educate states on the VIS program availability, enrollment, and data safety.

Projected Deliverable: Identify which states are not participating. Contact BLA of states that are not participating. Conduct a VIS Session at the Spring BLA Workshop.

VIRT_VIS_2019-2 (VIS_2018-2 & VIS_2018-3) : Performance Metrics

Working with the Numbering & Titling Subcommittee, identify a minimum of two **performance metrics** states can use to evaluate registration and titling programs based on the previous surveys that have been sent out. Once identified, we will create best practice documents to be referenced to encourage uniformity among all states. Once the best practice documents are finalized, these performance measures will be sent to all state BLA's and R & T contacts as part of a best practice document that is supported by NASBLA. We will then need to contact states not using "best practices" to see if they are willing to try any of these "best practices" to increase their performances and to help achieve consistency amongst the states.

Charge Leader: Brenda Verner (PA)

Team Member(s): Julie Aronow (TX), Vicki Rhodes (DE), Eric Lundin (CT), Paula Lannen (NV), Jennifer Doering (WY)

Needs Statement: States have completed a number of surveys over the last two years to determine what best practices VIRT needs to identify for information sharing. These surveys have been shared on the NASBLA Connect platform for the benefit of all member states. Consistency amongst states is vital for registration & title data to be accurate.

Projected Deliverable: Developing strategies to get states to use "Best Practices" and post the results to NASBLA Connect and VIRT Web page. Continue efforts to achieve consistency of registration & titling data amongst states

VIRT_VIS_2019-3 : Report of Certificate of Numbers Issued to Boats

Work with U.S. Coast Guard on providing comments and recommendations on a new form for the "**Report of Certificate of Numbers Issued to Boats**" that would comply with the implementation of the regulatory changes in the Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Report Database, that goes into effect January 1, 2017.

Charge Leader: Vicki Rhodes (DE)

Team Member(s): Rick Barrera (NASBLA), Susan Weber (USCG), Jeff Decker (USCG),

Needs Statement: With the "new" Numbering Standards imposed by the US Coast Guard, the States have to have a "new" Report of Certificate of Numbers Issued to Boats" to capture the information on the changes that have been made to description of the boats being registered. Information has been added and some has been deleted, so the old form does not match the information the States are now collecting.

Projected Deliverable: Revised "Report of Certificate of Numbers Issued to Boats" form.