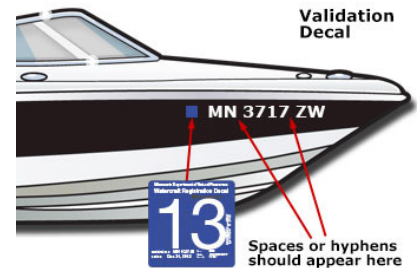


Vessel Safety Check

Review of Safety Items on Your Boat

Item 1 - Display of Numbers:

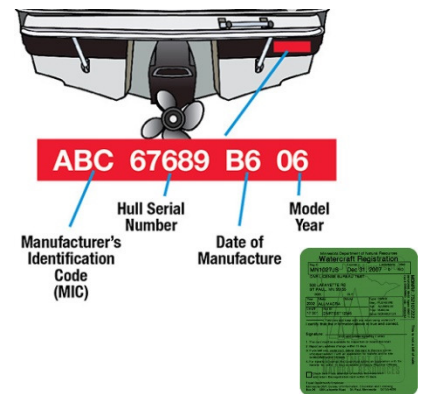
The boat's registration number must be permanently attached to each side of the forward half of the vessel. They must be plain, vertical, block characters, not less than three (3) inches high, and in a color contrasting with the background. 3" space or hyphen must separate the letters from the numbers. Should be read from left to right. State tax sticker is always closer to the stern within 4" of the license number.
(e.g. FL 1234 AB or FL-1234-AB)



Item 2 - Registration / Documentation:

Registration or Documentation papers must be on board and available.
For documentation vessels:

The official number must be permanently marked on a visible part of the interior structure at least 3" in height preceded by "NO."
The documented boat's name and hailing port (city & state) must be displayed together on the exterior hull (usually aft) in letters not less than 4" in height in clearly legible letters.
(To be documented a boat must be 5 net tons or greater.)



Item 3 - Personal Flotation Devices (PFD):

Acceptable PFDs (Life Jackets) must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, in good serviceable condition, and of suitable size for the each person on the boat. PFDs shall NOT be stored in unopened plastic packaging. Wearable PFDs shall be "readily accessible".

NOTE: inflatable PFD's need to be worn in order to be counted.

Children must have properly fitted PFDs designed for children.

NOTE: MN state law requires children under 10 years to wear a PFD while underway regardless of being on deck or in the cabin.

Boats 16 Feet or longer must also have one Type IV throwable PFD and shall be "immediately available."

For Personal Watercraft operators & riders the PFD must be worn.



Item 4 - Visual Distress Signals (VDS):

Does NOT apply to boats used on Lake Minnetonka and inland lakes. Recreational boats 16 feet and over used on coastal waters or the Great Lakes are required to carry a minimum of either

- 1) Three (3) day and three (3) night pyrotechnic devices
- 2) One (1) day non-pyrotechnic device (flag) and one (1) night non-pyrotechnic device (auto SOS light)
- 3) A combination of #1 and #2 above



Recreational boats less than 16 feet on coastal waters or the Great Lakes need only carry night visual distress signals when operating from sunset to sunrise.

It is recommended, but not required, that boats operating on inland waters should have some means of making a suitable day and night distress signal. The number and type of signals is best judged by considering conditions under which the boat will be operating.



Alternatives to pyrotechnic devices (flares) include:

Night	Day
Strobe light	Signal mirror
Flashlight	Red or orange flags
Lantern	Hand signals



Item 5 - Fire Extinguishers:

Fire extinguishers are required if one of the following conditions exists:

- 1) Inboard engine(s)
- 2) Closed compartments that store portable fuel tanks
- 3) Double bottom hulls not completely sealed or not completely filled with flotation materials
- 4) Closed living space
- 5) Closed stowage compartments that contain flammable materials
- 6) Permanently installed fuel tanks



Fire extinguishers must be readily accessible and verified as serviceable and 12 years or newer.

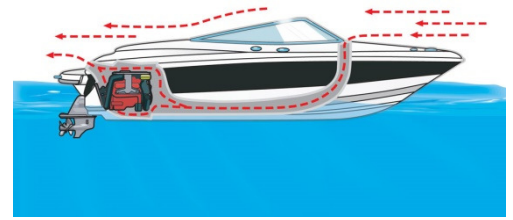
Minimum number of extinguishers required:

Boat Length	No Fixed System	w/Fixed System
Less than 26'	one B-1	none
26' to less than 40'	two B-1 or one B-2	one B-1
40' to 65'	three B-1 or one B-1 & one B-2	two B-1 or one B-2



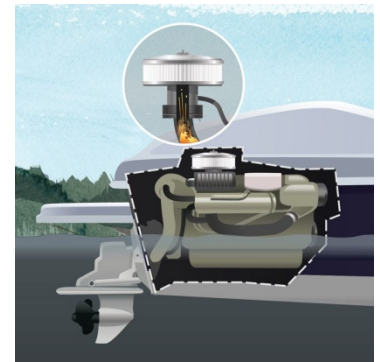
Item 6 - Ventilation:

Boats with gasoline engines in closed compartments, built after August 1st 1980 must have a powered ventilation system. Those built prior to that date must have natural or powered ventilation. Boats with closed fuel tank compartments built after August 1st 1978 must meet requirements by displaying a "certificate of compliance." Boats built before that date must have either natural or powered ventilation in the fuel tank compartment.



Item 7 - Backfire Flame Control:

All gasoline powered inboard/outboard or inboard motor boats must be equipped with an approved backfire flame control device.



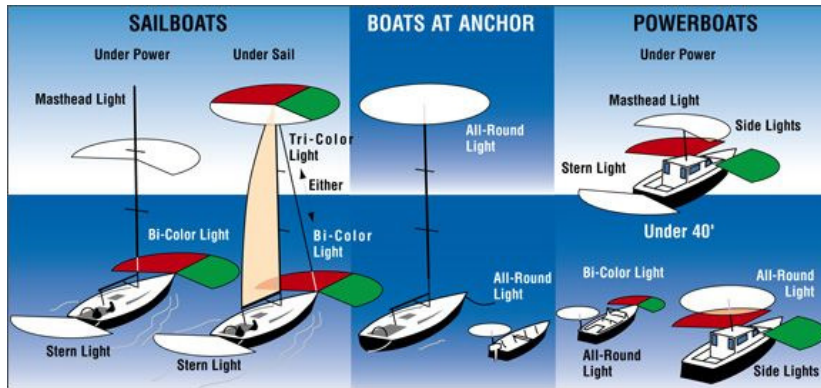
Item 8 - Sound Producing Devices / Bell:

All boats must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, etc.) capable of a 4 sec. blast audible for ½ mile. Sound signals are required to be made under certain circumstances such as meeting, crossing, overtaking, periods of reduced visibility and distress. Boats 65.6 ft. (20 meters) must also carry a bell.



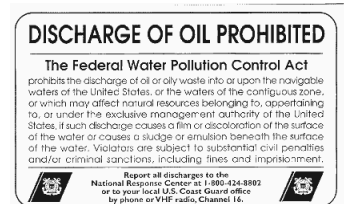
Item 9 - Navigation Lights:

All boats, including sailboats operating under engine power, must be able to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility. Navigation lights must have properly installed, working and have an all-around white anchor light capable of being lit independently from the red/green/white "running" lights.



Item 10 - Pollution Placard:

Boats 26 feet and over with a machinery compartment must display an oily waste placard at least 5x8" made of durable material, fixed in a conspicuous place in the machinery space or at the bilge pump control station. Notify USCG if spill oil/gas in water.



Item 11 - MARPOL Trash Placard:

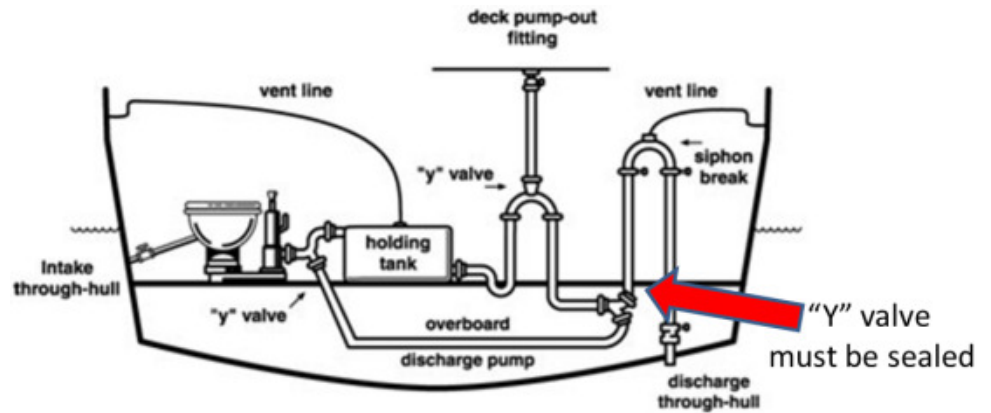
Does NOT apply to boats used on Lake Minnetonka and inland lakes. Boats 26 feet and over in length must display a "MARPOL" trash placard placing limitations on the discharge of garbage from vessels. Oceangoing vessels 40 feet and over that are equipped with a galley and berthing must also have a written waste management plan describing the procedures for collecting, processing, storing, and discharging garbage.



Item 12 - Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD):

Any installed toilet must be a Coast Guard approved device. Overboard discharge outlets must be capable of being prevented and/or sealed. When operating a vessel in a no discharge zone, the operator must secure the device in a manner that prevents any discharge. Some acceptable methods are: padlocking overboard discharge valves in the closed position, using a non-releasable wire tie to hold overboard discharge valves in the closed position, closing overboard discharge valves and removing the handle/key (Type I & Type II MSD only).

Note: Portable toilets, often referred to as port-a-potties, are not considered installed devices and are not subject to the regulations.



Item 13 - Navigation Rules:

Does NOT apply to boats used on Lake Minnetonka and inland lakes. Boats 39.4 feet and over operating in costal and international waters must have a current copy of the Navigation Rules on board. This can be in booklet or electronic format.



Item 14 - State and/ or Local Requirements:

These requirements must be met before the "Vessel Safety Check" decal can be awarded. A boat must meet the requirements of the state in which it is being examined. For Minnesota the following items will be checked.

- Positive battery terminal covered (MN)
- Current copy of the Minnesota Boating Guide (MN)
- CO detector(s) and stickers (if applicable for MN)



Item 15 - Overall Vessel condition:

- a) The vessel must have a safe overall condition
- b) Deck free of hazards and clean bilge. The boat must be free from fire hazards, in good overall condition, with bilges reasonably clean and visible hull structure generally sound. The use of automobile parts on boat engines is not acceptable. The engine horsepower must not exceed that shown on the capacity plate.



c) Electrical and Fuel Systems:

- (1) The electrical system must be protected by fuses or manual reset circuit breakers. Switches and fuse panels must be protected from rain or water spray.
- (2) Wiring must be in good condition, properly installed and with no exposed areas or deteriorated insulation.
- (3) If the vessel is equipped with a shore power connection it should be free of charring, brown, or corrosion around the prongs.
- (4) Batteries must be secured and terminals covered to prevent accidental arcing. Minnesota only requires positive terminal covered, Wisconsin requires both.
- (5) If installed, self-circling or kill switch mechanism must be in proper working order. All PWCs require an operating self-circling or kill switch mechanism.
- (6) Portable fuel tanks 7 gallon or less must be constructed of non-breakable material and free of corrosion and leaks. All vents must be capable of being closed. The tank must be properly secured to the deck and have a vapor-tight, leak-proof cap. Each permanent fuel tank must be properly ventilated.



d) Galley and Heating Systems:

- (1) System and fuel tanks must be properly secured with no flammable materials nearby.
- (2) Adequate ventilation provided for all appliances and their fuel source.
- (3) Appliance shutoff valves readily accessible.

