



# SAFETY FLASH

DOTD LOSS PREVENTION: LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CENTER

## BOAT REGISTRATION



Before a boat operator plans his first outing, he must be familiar with the laws and regulations for boat numbering, registration, and titling, and the requirements for carrying safety equipment on board. You must apply for your numbers on approved forms with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

**Ensure your vessel's numbers are properly displayed as follows:**

- They must be as high above the waterline as practical.
- No number other than the number assigned can be displayed on the forward half of the vessel.
- Letters must be separated from numbers by spaces or hyphens.
- Validation decals must be displayed within six inches of the number.

- The figures must read from left to right.
- They must be displayed on the forward half of the bow of the boat.
- Numbers must be in bold, block letters of good proportion.
- The boat's numbers must be not less than three inches high.
- They must be of contrasting color to the boat hull or background.





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## NATIONAL SAFE BOATING CAMPAIGN

U. S. Coast Guard Minimum Requirements for Motorboats				
EQUIPMENT	Class A (Less than 16 ft)	Class 1 (16 to less than 26 ft)	Class 2 (26 to less than 40 ft)	Class 3 (40 to not more than 65 ft)
Back-Fire Flame Arrestor	One approved device on each carburetor of all gasoline engines installed after April 25, 1940, except outboard motors.			
Ventilation Boats built before August 1, 1980	At least two ventilator ducts fitted with cowls or their equivalent for the purpose of properly and efficiently ventilating the bilges of every closed engine and fuel-tank compartment of boats constructed or decked over after April 25, 1940, using gasoline as fuel or other fuels having a flash-point of 110 degrees or less.			
Ventilation Boats built on August 1, 1980, or later	At least two ventilator ducts for the purpose of efficiently ventilating every closed compartment that contains a gasoline engine and every closed compartment containing a gasoline tank, except those having permanently installed tanks which vent outside the boat and which contain no unprotected electrical devices. Also, engine compartments containing a gasoline engine having a cranking motor must contain power- operated exhaust blowers which can be controlled from the instrument panel.			
Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)	One approved Type I, II, III or IV PFD for each per- son on board or being towed on water skis, etc.	One approved Type I, II or III device aboard for each person on board or being towed on water skis, etc.; and in addition, one throwable type IV device. Note: Type V PFD may be carried in lieu of any wearable PFD, if approved for the activity in which the boat is being used. A type V Hybrid must be worn to be legal.		
Bell, Whistle	Every vessel less than 12 meters (39' 9") in length must carry an efficient sound pro- ducing device.	Every vessel 12 meters (39'4") or larger in length must carry a whistle and a bell. The whistle must be audible for 1/2 nautical mile. The mouth of the bell must be at least 200 mm (7.87 inches) in diameter.		
Visual Distress Signals (Required on coastal waters only)	Must carry approved visual distress signals for nighttime use.	Must carry visual distress signals approved for both daytime use and night time use. Note: All boats carrying six or more passengers for hire must meet these requirements also.		
Fire Extinguisher  Must say Coast Guard Approved	At least one B-1 type hand portable if any of these conditions exist: inboard engines; closed compartments under seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored; double bottoms not sealed to the hull or completely filled with flotation materials; closed living spaces; closed compartments where combustible or flammable materials are stored; permanently installed fuel tanks, including those that cannot be moved in case of fire or other emergency if the weight of a fuel tank is such that persons on board cannot move it, it is considered permanently installed.		At least two B-1 type approved portable fire extinguishers; or at least one B-II type approved portable fire extinguisher.	At least three B-1 type approved portable fire extinguishers; or at least one B-I type plus one B-II type approved portable fire extinguisher.
Legal Requirements for Safe Boating				