

HIN 101

HIN's were enacted on 1 Nov 1972. All recreational vessels imported or manufactured and sold in the U.S. have to have a HIN. Any vessel build before that date is not required to have a HIN but the state may issue one if they so choose. HIN's consist of 12 characters. **Between 1 Nov 72 and 1 Aug 1984 there were two different formats, a straight year format and a model year format.**

Manufacturer Identification Code (MIC), assigned to manufacturers by the U.S. Coast Guard and may consist of letters and/or numbers. Use of numbers was discontinued in mid-1990s. Only boat manufacturers and the state licensing authority can issue HIN's to a recreational vessel.

The 2017 regulatory change that is at issue is HIN verification. All HIN's are to be verified and corrections made to the registration data base and any "Non-conforming HIN's" will be managed by the state licensing authority as outlined below. This is not a CG issue. The CG does not issue registrations or assign HIN's to vessels. HIN assignment is the responsibility of the importer, manufacturer who has been assigned a Manufacturers Identification Code (MIC) by the Coast Guard or the state licensing authority. All inquiries or complaints received should be directed to the state licensing authority.

HIN information

Straight year: ABC123450883

ABC = Manufacturers Identification Code (MIC)

- 12345= manufacturers serial number. The manufacturer's serial numbers can have any combination of numbers and letters in it as long as the letters are not an "I", "O" or "Q". These letters can be confused with numbers and are not allowed.
- 08= month of production
- 83= year of production

Model year format: XYZ12345M84A

- The MIC (XYZ) and the serial number (12345) are no different than the straight year format.
- M= Means it is the model year format
- 84 Model year.
- A= month of production "A" August "B" September, etc.

Under certain circumstances....

- Occasionally the USCG has allowed a 12 character HIN with an incorrect format as long as the manufacturer and year of the vessel can be identified.
- Many times a HIN is verified as an 11 character or 13 character HIN. The format may be correct with either one digit missing or one extra digit in the production serial number portion of the HIN.

After 1 August 1984 it changed to the current year format. All vessels manufactured and sold after this date will have this style HIN.

Current year format; BMA45678H485

- BMA= Again the manufacturers Identification Code issued the manufacturer by the CG
- 45678= Manufacturers serial number. The manufacturer's serial numbers can have letters in it as long as they are not an "I", "O" or "Q". These letters can be confused with numbers.
- H4 = month and year of production. "A" Jan, "B" Feb, etc.
- 85 = Model year.

Current HIN's may have a country code such as US but it must be separated from the HIN by a space or dash (-). There may be other numbers associated with a HIN but to meet requirements they must be separate from the HIN by a border (in a box) or on a separate label. These additional characters cannot be listed on the registration as part of the HIN.

To be registered, **homemade vessel must have a HIN issued to it, by the state**, and permanently attached to the vessels hull on the stern, starboard side.

Policy:

Here are the procedures the states must follow with regards to HIN verification to satisfy the new federal requirement.

1. When the State encounters a discrepancy within a 12 Character HIN on a boat **within 10 years from the date of manufacture:**

If the manufacturer is still in business;

- The State issuing office should send the Coast Guard an email with the owner's and vessel information and the Coast Guard will contact the manufacturer and authorize the manufacturer to correct the HIN discrepancy.
2. When the State encounters a discrepancy within a 12 Character HIN on a boat **within 10** years from the date of manufacture:

If the manufacturer is out of business;

- The State should issue a State HIN using the New (Current) Format.
 - The **last four** characters should be the month and year the State HIN is assigned to that vessel.
 - A record of the original HIN must be made a part of the boat's record and the owner should retain a copy for their records and a copy should be kept on the boat.
3. When the State encounters a discrepancy within a 12 Character HIN on a boat **older than 10 years from the date of manufacture:**

And the discrepancy is within the serial number (Characters 4 - 8)

- The State should document the discrepancy in the boat's record and the owner should retain a copy for their records and a copy should be kept on the boat.

4. When the State encounters a discrepancy within a 12 Character HIN on a boat **older than 10 years from the date of manufacture**:

And the discrepancy is within either the MIC or the last four characters of the HIN:

- The State should issue a State HIN using the New (Current) Format.
- The **last four** of the State HIN should be the month and year issued to that vessel.
- A record of the original HIN must be made a part of the boat's record and the owner should retain a copy for their records and should be advised to keep a copy on their boat.
- On boats built prior to November 1, 1972 States are not required to issue a State HIN but may do so.

5. When the State encounters HINs on boats **within 10 years old from the date of manufacture**, that contain **any number of characters other than 12**:

If the manufacturer is out of business;

- States should verify if the USCG authorization has been given.
- The State should issue a State HIN using the New (Current) Format.
- The **last four** of the State HIN should be the month and year issued to that vessel.
- A record of the original HIN must be made a part of the boat's record and the owner should retain a copy for their records and should be advised to keep a copy aboard their boat.

6. When the State encounters HINs on boats **within 10 years old from the date of manufacture**, that contain **any number of characters other than 12**:

If the manufacturer is still in business;

- The State issuing office should send the Coast Guard an email with the owner's and vessel information and the Coast Guard will

contact the manufacturer and authorize the manufacturer to correct the HIN discrepancy.

7. When the State encounters HINs on boats **older than 10 years from the date of manufacture that contain **any number of characters other than 12**:**

- The State should issue a State HIN using the New (Current) Format.
- The **last four** of the State HIN should be the month and year issued to that vessel.
- A record of the original HIN must be made a part of the boat's record and the owner should retain a copy for their records and should be advised to keep a copy aboard their boat.
- On boats built prior to November 1, 1972 States are not required to issue a State HIN but may do so.