



GENERAL INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY CERTIFICATE OF DOCUMENTATION

Enclosed is the Certificate of Documentation (COD) for your vessel. This Certificate IS NOT valid for operation until the vessel is marked in accordance with the below instructions. A document bearing only a Recreation endorsement may not be used for any other purpose.

OFFICIAL NUMBER: For all vessels, the official number shown on the COD, preceded by the abbreviation "NO." must be marked in block-type Arabic numerals at least 3" high on some clearly visible interior structural part of the hull. The number must be permanently affixed so that alteration, removal, or replacement would be obvious and cause some scarring or damage to the surrounding hull area.

NAME AND HAILING PORT: For RECREATION vessels, the name and hailing port both must be marked **together** on some clearly visible exterior part of the hull. For COMMERCIAL vessels, the vessel name must be marked on each bow and the vessel name and hailing port must also be marked on the stern. The markings may be made by the use of any means and materials that result in durable markings. All must be at least 4" in height, made in clearly legible letters of the Latin alphabet or Arabic or Roman numerals. NOTE: Hailing port marking must include BOTH a place (city) AND the state. Commonly known abbreviations are acceptable. (e.g. NY, NY)

The COD is **not** valid for operation if any of the information shown, other than the address of the managing owner, changes. The COD is to be returned to this office. The penalty for operation of a vessel with an **invalid** document is \$10,000 per violation. Each day of continuing violation is a separate violation. The Certificate is valid for one year unless required to be exchanged, replaced, or is canceled. Forms, instructions and fee schedules pertaining to documentation are available on-line at: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/vdoc/nvdc.htm>

Annual renewal of the endorsement is required. During the month preceding expiration, a Notice of Renewal is mailed to the managing owner at the address of record. If you do not receive the notice, contact our office not later than two weeks prior to the expiration date. If your address changes, you must notify us as soon as possible. In lieu of a renewal decal, a new COD will be issued annually and returned to you for keeping on board the vessel. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RENEWAL IS UP TO YOU, THE VESSEL OWNER, WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE.

State and local officials have the right to board documented vessels for law enforcement purposes. Many states require registration of documented vessels for tax and other purposes. You may be required to place a decal on your vessel showing that you have complied with state requirements. Contact state authorities for further information.

A documented vessel may not be titled by a State . . . 46 USC § 12106(a)

IF THERE ARE ERRORS IN THIS PAPERWORK, PLEASE RETURN THE PAPERWORK TO THE NATIONAL VESSEL DOCUMENTATION CENTER ALONG WITH THIS COVER LETTER.