



Lincoln County

World's second-largest wheat producing county.

Office of the Auditor

Shelly Johnston, Auditor

P.O. Box 28 • Davenport, WA 99122 • (509) 725-4971

FAX 509-725-0820 • sjohnston@co.lincoln.wa.us

News Release

Contact: Shelly Johnston
Lincoln County Auditor
Office: (509) 725-4971
sjohnston@co.lincoln.wa.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Federal Standards for Hull Identification Number (HIN) for Vessels

LINCOLN COUNTY, April 24, 2017 - The United States Coast Guard is beginning to enforce a new federal standard that may require about 19,000 Washington vessel owners to change the Hull Identification Number (HIN) on their vessels. The HIN is a unique identifier for each vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard is making these changes to:

- Improve boating safety efforts
- Enhance law enforcement capabilities
- Promote the US Coast Guard's strategic goals of maritime safety and security.

How do I know if the Hull Identification Number needs to be replaced?

The vast majority of vessels registered in Washington have HIN numbers that comply with the new Coast Guard standards. If your vessel's HIN does not comply with the new standard, the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL) already sent you a letter in late March with instructions. Individuals who received this notification will not be able to register, renew or title a vessel until the HIN is updated. A vessel with a noncompliant HIN cannot be renewed online. Vessel owners who were not notified by mail can renew normally.

How do I get a new HIN?

If the HIN on your vessel does not conform to the new federal standards, you must visit a Vehicle Licensing Office. The office will issue you a new Certificate of Ownership and generate a HIN that is compliant with the standards. There are no titling fees assessed if the title transaction is due solely to issuing a compliant HIN.

What if my HIN doesn't match the letter from DOL?

Bring a photo or rubbing of the current HIN with you to the Vehicle Licensing Office. If the current HIN does not match the vessel record in DOL files, the record will be updated.

What do I need to do with my boat once I have a new HIN?

Vessel owners required to update their HIN numbers already have received instructions about how to comply with the new Coast Guard requirements. Under these new requirements, two identical HINs must be permanently affixed to a vessel with a nonconforming HIN. It is recommended that the original HIN not be removed, covered-up or otherwise defaced but that the assigned HIN should be applied adjacent to the original HIN. You must use methods (such as decals, engraved plates, embossing) that permanently fix the HIN to the vessel.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please review the material on the Department of Licensing website at www.dol.wa.gov, contact the DOL Customer Service Center at (360) 902-3770 or CustomerCare@dol.wa.gov, or contact your local Vehicle Licensing Office (a list is available at the DOL website).