



# Boat Registration and Operator License

ALEA Driver License Division

Vessel Unit

# Boat Registration



- **Alabama REQUIRES all mechanically propelled boats(sailboats), and boats for hire to be registered, as well as vessels documented as pleasure with the USCG.**
  - Pleasure vessels are not required to display the AL registration number but should place the current year decal in a conspicuous location, and the registration cert shall be on board while in operation.
- **Boats not required to register in AL are:**
  - Vessel operating under a valid temporary certificate of number
  - Vessel registered in another state if it's not going to be on AL waters for an excess of 90 consecutive days.
  - Vessel registered in another country temporarily using the waters of this state
  - Vessel owned by US, or a state, county or municipality
  - Lifeboats
  - Vessel not propelled by a motor (sailboats and rentals exceptions)
  - Documented as commercial with the USCG
- **Boats are registered based on length**
  - Class I-Less than 16 Ft-\$20
  - Class II-16 feet or longer, less than 26 ft-\$25
  - Class III-26 feet or longer, less than 40 ft-\$75
  - Class IV-40 feet or longer-\$100
- **Registrations fees are never prorated.**
- **No late fees associated with boat registrations**
- **Boats are measured from the point of the boat (Not Bowsprits) to the rear part of the boat (not to include the motor)**
- **NEW Vessel registrations are charged annual fee based on length**
- **Vessels with out of state registrations (Expired or Not) are charged the annual fee.**
- **A Transfer fee of \$5 is charged when transferring the vessel into a new owner's name.**
  - No fee is charged when registering an out of state boat
- **A Duplicate fee of \$5 is charged for the replacement of a certificate**

# Boat Registration



- Boat owners register, renew, or transfer ownership at any county probate office, or license commissioner's office
- Dealers and liveries must register through the registration dept at the ALEA
- 72-hour grace period to register NEW boat
- If registered with an UNEXPIRED AL Registration, the buyer has 15 days to transfer.
- If the registration is EXPIRED, it must be registered before it's used
- There is no grace period for a USED boat.
- Renewals are done by the first letter of the person's last name
- All vessels in company names, dealers, liveries renew in October.
- Decals are issued annually upon payment of the registration fees
- Boats are issued AINs upon being registered in AL for the 1st time.
  - AINs are unique to that boat and are only issued to that boat for the life of it.
- Registration numbers must be placed on BOTH SIDES of the bow of the vessel where it is always visible.
- Number must be displayed in 3 parts with a space or hyphen between each part.
  - Must be BLOCK characters not less than 3in high
  - The decal must be in line with and within 6in before or after the registration number
- Distinctive Boat Decals are \$50 annually, mailed directly to customer by the state.
- All boats manufactured after 1972 are required to have a Hull number.
- Homemade boats are also required.
- Owners of homemade boats or ones manufactured prior to 1972 may apply for a hull number
  - Following items must be submitted:
    - Completed App
    - Photo of boat
    - Bill of sale copy
    - If it's a homemade vessel a \$25 inspection fee is required
      - There is no fee for manufactured vessels
- Boat owners can renew registrations online at [www.alea.gov](http://www.alea.gov)
  - Transfers, replacements etc must still be processed at the county offices.
  - ALEA does not mail out renewal notices to customers.
- We do not title boats or boat trailers.

# Boat Registration



## New Boat Registration System Benefits

- Provide faster response times for your transactions/customers/employees;
- Expedite resolution of customer transaction issues (voids, refunds, duplicates, etc.);
- Eliminate duplication of efforts. Currently, each vendor is maintaining their own separate database for each of their customers. Modernization will allow the single system of record to reside with ALEA for all counties/vendors to access in real time;
- Law Enforcement will have up-to-date vessel registration information available to them to investigate crimes in your county; and
- Detailed vessel history for your employees/customers when transferring boats from other counties.

# Operator's License



## Operator's License

- **Must be 12 yrs or older with a valid vessel license to operate on AL waters**
- **To operate alone must be 14 yrs and have a valid vessel license.**
- **12 or 13 yr olds may only operate with supervision after obtaining their vessel license.**
- **Persons supervising must**
  - Have a vessel operator license in possession
  - Be at least 21
  - Be on board the vessel
  - Be seated where they can take control if needed
- **To obtain a Vessel License or have the "V" endorsement class added to your DL you must:**
  - **Take the exam either by:**
    - Completing the test at any ALEA DL office
    - Take the test online through either of our approved testing sites Boat-ed.com or boaterexam.com
    - Through the Drivers Ed course through school
    - A Marine Patrol Officer led course
  - **Exemptions to this include:**
    - Any operator that was born prior to April 28, 1954
    - Holder of a valid USCG motorboat operator's license
  - **Submitting a valid certificate of completion from:**
    - US Power Squadron Boating Course
    - USCG Auxiliary Boating Course

# How to contact us?

**For more information**  
[www.alea.gov](http://www.alea.gov)

## **Boat Registration**

Phone: (334)517-2930

Fax: (334)517-2951

Mailing Address: PO Box 304115 Montgomery AL  
36130

Email Address: [boatregistration@alea.gov](mailto:boatregistration@alea.gov)



## **Operator Licensing**

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