



# Boat Registration

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**

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- 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.

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## New Boat Registration Legislation

- During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Alabama State Reservoir Management Development Program was established under Act 2021-447.
- This program will be a part of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to provide an award of grants to local entities.
- This law amended Sections of 33-5-6, 33-5-10, and 33-5-17 Code of Alabama 1975.
- Beginning January 1st, 2022, there shall be an additional **registration fee of five dollars (\$5)** for every Class 1 through 4 vessel registered in Alabama.
- This additional fees collected will be included in your county's monthly submissions to ALEA Vessel Registration Unit.

# How to contact us?

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



## **Boat Registration**

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36130

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

## **Operator Licensing**

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