



It's the law!

Engine/Propulsion Cut-Off Devices, ECOS

WHAT IS IT?

An Engine Cut-Off Switch (ECOS) is a safety mechanism used to shut off propulsion machinery when the operator is displaced from the helm. Operators of recreational vessels less than 26 feet in length will be required to use an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) and associated ECOS link (ECOSL) as of April 1, 2021.

The link must be attached to the operator, the operator's clothing, or operator's personal floatation device. It is typically a coiled lanyard, but may also be an electronic fob.

WHY?

Boats can make sudden and forceful turns that create enough torque to eject an operator from the helm area or completely out of the boat. Wearing your Engine Cut-Off Switch Link immediately stops the engine and allows the operator to regain control of the boat. It will prevent the danger of a spinning propeller and an out of control boat, especially since an unmanned boat can often start traveling in circles.

WHO NEEDS THIS?

Boats less than 26 feet in length that generate more than 115lbs of static thrust (~ 2-3hp) and were built beginning in January 2020. If the boats' primary helm is inside an enclosed cabin it is not required to have an Engine Cut-Off Switch.

WHEN WAS MY BOAT BUILT?

Check your boat's hull identification number (HIN). The HIN is usually found on the starboard outboard side of the transom, but can also be found on the boat's registration. Characters 11 and 12 of the HIN represent the model year. If the model year is 19 or lower, the boat DOES NOT need an ECOS to be installed. If the model year is 21 or later, the boat DOES need an ECOS to be installed. If the model year is 20, then the date of certification needs to be determined.

FAQ

I have an ECOS on an older boat, am I required to use it?
Yes. If an engine cut-off switch is present, it must be used!

Click here for more information.



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Fifth District Southern Region

