

Documentation Update

John Collins, USCGAux, Sector Boston, ADSO-PE

A vessel must measure at least five net tons and, with the exception of certain oil spill response vessels, must be wholly owned by a citizen of the U.S. Net tonnage is a measure of a vessel's volume. It should not be confused with the vessel's weight, which may also be expressed in tons. Most vessels more than 25 feet in length will measure five net tons or more. For information about how tonnage is determined, including a web-based interactive form that calculates tonnages, visit the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center's web site at the Marine Safety Center's Tonnage Page.

<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/msc/tonnage-guides/>

Now you can document your vessel for up to five years. To document your vessel, go to the following website: <http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Deputy-for-Operations-Policy-and-Capabilities-DCO-D/National-Vessel-Documentation-Center/>. It will provide you with all of the information you will need to document your vessel. You can download all necessary forms.

4 July 2025