

Hull Identification Numbers

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The Hull Identification Number (HIN) on a boat is a 12-character serial number that identifies the boat and is similar to a car's VIN. All types of boats manufactured, sold or imported to the US require a HIN.

The HIN is usually located on the starboard side of the transom at the stern of the boat. On boats without transoms, that is, rounded sterns or pointed sterns (as in canoes), it goes to the right of center if you are facing the stern of the boat. It must be at least one-quarter inch tall and should not be defaced, removed, or altered. The HIN is required by federal law and must appear on the boat's registration application

The HIN is made up of letters and numbers that indicate the following:

- Manufacturer: The first three letters are the manufacturer's identification code. <https://www.uscgboating.org/content/manufacturers-identification.php>
- Serial number: The next five digits are the manufacturer's serial number for the boat. It can contain anything except I, O, or Q.
- Month and year of production: The third and fourth digits from the end indicate the month and year of manufacture. The letters A through L correspond to the months of the year, with A being January and L being December.
- Model year: The last two digits indicate the model year.

