

Florida
Department of Highway Safety
and Motor Vehicles
Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE	SUBJECT:
VSTL-39	STATE ASSIGNED VESSEL HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

DESCRIPTION AND USE:

THIS PROCEDURE IS PROVIDED TO ASSIST EMPLOYEES OF THE TAX COLLECTOR OFFICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES IN ASSIGNING STATE VESSEL HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.

I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:

Title 33, Part 181, of the code of Federal Regulation mandates the unique identification of all pleasure craft vessel hulls. Vessels, manufactured exclusively for commercial purposes are exempt from these federal requirements; however, the manufacturer of such commercial vessels may elect to assign 12 character hull identification numbers. If they do not elect to do so, the state will assign the hull identification number.

Title 33, Part 181, of the code of Federal Regulation mandates that states assign a hull identification number for those vessels that a person builds or imports for their own use and not for the purposes of sale, such as homemade vessels.

Section 328.07(1), Florida Statutes, reads: "No person shall operate on the waters of this state a vessel the construction of which began after October 31, 1972, for which the department has issued a certificate of title or which is required by law to be registered, unless the vessel displays the assigned hull identification number affixed by the manufacturer as required by the United States Coast Guard or by the department for a homemade vessel or other vessel for which a hull identification number is not required by the United States Coast Guard. The hull identification number must be carved, burned, stamped, embossed, or otherwise permanently affixed to the outboard side of the transom or, if there is no transom, to the outermost starboard side at the end of the hull that bears the rudder or other steering mechanism, above the waterline of the vessel in such a way that alteration, removal, or replacement would be obvious and evident. The characters of the hull identification number must be no less than 12 in number and no less than one-fourth inch in height."

Revision(s) to this procedure: Clarifying on page 2 when the license plate agency should assign a hull identification number.

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<p>Section 328.07(2), Florida Statutes, reads: "No person shall operate on the waters of this state a vessel the construction of which was completed before November 1, 1972, for which the department has issued a certificate of title or which is required by law to be registered, unless the vessel displays a hull identification number. The hull identification number shall be clearly imprinted in the transom or on the hull by stamping, impressing, or marking with pressure. In lieu of imprinting, the hull identification number may be displayed on a plate in a permanent manner. A vessel for which the manufacturer has provided no hull identification number or a homemade vessel shall be assigned a hull identification number by the department which shall be affixed to the vessel pursuant to this section."</p> <p>II. ASSIGNING A STATE HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (HIN):</p> <p>There are many unique situations where it is necessary for a state hull identification number (HIN) to be assigned, they are listed below:</p> <p>A. When an applicant applies for a certificate of title on a vessel built prior to 1972 that does not have an existing hull identification number. The applicant must provide an affidavit stating that no hull identification number exists on the vessel.</p> <p>B. When an applicant submits a certificate of title for transfer with a hull identification number which has less than 12 characters and the model year is 1972 or newer or unknown, and the database reflects the FL number with no spaces (this indicates that the hull identification number is duplicated with other vessel hull numbers in the database). The applicant must provide a pencil tracing of the hull number.</p> <p>NOTE: If the model year is prior to 1972, a pencil tracing is not required.</p> <p>C. If the vessel was built prior to November 1, 1972, it is not required to have a 12 digit properly formatted HIN number. However, if the number is duplicated in the Division of Motorist Services (DMS) database, a number may be assigned.</p> <p>D. When a vessel is homemade and a vessel inspection has been performed on the vessel by the Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the DMS database will assign the hull number upon application for certificate of title by the applicant. For instructions on homemade vessels, see DMS Procedure VSTL-09.</p> <p>E. Manufacturers of vessels built exclusively for commercial purposes are not required by the United States Coast Guard to place a 12-digit hull identification number on the vessels. In some cases, the tax collector's office should issue a state assigned hull identification number and advise the customer how to place it on the vessel.</p>	
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<p>III. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:</p> <p>A. To create a state assigned number when the model year is "unknown," you should enter "00" as the last two digits for the model year. The system will prefill the vessel original title or registration screen with the HIN number. When the maintenance of vehicle screen requires a model year you should place an "X" in the block marked "UNKNOWN". The system will automatically prefill the model year with 0000, which will print on the title and registration certificate.</p> <p>B. Any time you are assigning an FLZ (Florida assigned hull identification number) to a vessel, due to a duplicate HIN number in the system, please insure it is not the same vessel and that the vessel owner is applying for a transfer rather than an original title.</p> <p>C. It is the applicant's responsibility to have the hull identification number clearly imprinted in the transom or on the hull by stamping, impressing, or marking with pressure. In lieu of imprinting, the hull identification number may be displayed on a plate in a permanent manner.</p>	
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