

Florida

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Division of Motorist Services

PROCEDURE VSRS-14	SUBJECT: VESSEL REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS
DESCRIPTION AND USE: THIS PROCEDURE IS PROVIDED TO <u>ASSIST TAX COLLECTOR EMPLOYEES, LICENSE PLATE AGENCY EMPLOYEES</u> AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES IN UNDERSTANDING VESSEL REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS.	
<p>I. PROVISIONS OF LAW:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Section 328.48(1)(a), Florida Statutes, provides that a registration is not required for any vessel that is not used on the waters of this state.</u></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Section 328.48(2), Florida Statutes, provides that each vessel <u>operated, used, or stored</u> on the waters of <u>this</u> state must be registered <u>as a</u> commercial or recreational <u>vessel</u> as defined in this chapter and <u>section 327.02, Florida Statutes, unless it meets one of the exemptions in section II.</u></p> <p>II. REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. <u>A</u> vessel <u>operated, used, and stored</u> exclusively on private lakes and ponds.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. <u>A</u> vessel owned by the United States Government.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">C. <u>A</u> vessel used EXCLUSIVELY as a ship's lifeboat.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">D. <u>A</u> non-motor-powered vessel less than 16 <u>feet</u> in length <u>or a</u> non-motor-powered canoe, kayak, racing shell, or rowing scull, regardless of length.</p> <p>EXCEPTION: Section <u>379.361(2)(c)</u>, Florida Statutes, provides that any vessel (even non-motor-powered), harvesting restricted species in excess of any bag limit or when fishing under a commercial quota or in commercial quantities <u>shall</u> have a commercial vessel registration.</p>	
<i>Revision(s) to this procedure: Updated "Description and Use" section, added and updated applicable statutes and language in sections I and II, and corrected statute cited in Exception.</i>	
DIVISION DIRECTOR	EFFECTIVE DATE 07/01/08
	REVISION DATE 1/13/10
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