

# A GUIDE TO — DOCUMENTED VESSELS

Vessel documentation is a national form of registration, which is administered by the United States Coast Guard's National Vessel Documentation Center.



*\*Recreational boats of 5 net tons or more (approximately 35 ft. in length and over) are eligible (but not required) to be documented.*

Most commercial vessels of five or more net tons, used on the navigable waters of the United States, must be documented by the Coast Guard.

## REGISTERING A DOCUMENTED VESSEL

**Section 306.016, RSMo** of the Missouri Revised Statutes requires the owner of any vessel documented by the United States Coast Guard to apply for a documented vessel certificate of registration and pay a registration fee based on the length of the vessel and an "in-lieu" watercraft tax.

Missouri residents have 30 days (nonresidents have 60 days) from acquiring the vessel to apply for a Documented Vessel Certificate of Registration (DOR-4086). A penalty of \$10 will incur on the 31st day, increasing another \$10 for every 30 days you are late up to a maximum penalty of \$30.

### **"To Register" Checklist:**

*To certify and register a U.S. Coast Guard Documented Vessel, the following must be submitted (via mail or in person) to the Motor Vehicle Bureau's Central Office:*

#### **If the vessel is new or previously titled, but not documented:**

The Manufacturer's Statement of Origin MSO  
OR Properly assigned Certificate of Title.

*Note: If the MSO or title was surrendered to the U.S. Coast Guard, the following must be submitted:*

- A statement outlining this fact;
- A Bill of sale; and
- A Certificate of Documentation (CG-1270) issued by the U.S. Coast Guard listing the applicant as the owner.

#### **If the vessel was previously documented with the U.S. Coast Guard:**

A certified copy of the "ABSTRACT OF TITLE" in the new owner's name AND the Documented Vessel Certificate of Registration (DOR-4086) properly assigned;

- A Certificate of Documentation (CG-1270) issued by the U.S. Coast Guard listing the applicant as the owner.
- A signed Application for Documented Vessel Certificate of Registration ([Form 4398](#)); and
- Paid personal property tax receipt or a statement of non-assessment from the county (or city of St. Louis) collector or assessor for the previous year.

**\*If the boat or vessel is not listed on the tax receipt ("boat" is acceptable) and should have been, a corrected tax receipt (if manually corrected, it must contain the county seal) OR A letter from the county collector (on Letterhead or containing the county seal) reflecting payment of taxes must be submitted.**

#### **The applicant must pay:**

- "In-Lieu" boat or vessel taxes based on the purchase date and price of the vessel OR proof that applicable taxes have been paid;

CA Boat or vessel registration (decal) fee;  
Under 16 feet ..... \$25.00  
16 feet but less than 26 feet ..... \$55.00  
26 feet but less than 40 feet ..... \$100.00  
40 feet and over ..... \$150.00

- A \$7.50 certificate fee; and
- A \$18.00 processing fee.

#### **Upon submission of all requirements and fees, the applicant will receive:**

- A Documented Vessel Certificate of Registration (DOR-4086); and
- Registration Decals (A "MO" number will not be issued).

Visit

[dor.mo.gov/license-office-locator](http://dor.mo.gov/license-office-locator)  
to locate a license office near you.

## DOCUMENTING A VESSEL

Documented vessel owners must pay an "in-lieu" tax rate based on the purchase price and purchase date of the vessel as follows:

Purchase Price of Boat or Vessel	Tax Due
Less than \$15,000 .....	\$500
\$15,001 to \$30,000 .....	\$650
\$30,001 to \$50,000 .....	\$1,000
\$50,001 to \$100,000 .....	\$1,400
\$100,001 to \$150,000 .....	\$2,000
\$150,001 to \$200,000 .....	\$3,000
\$200,001 to \$250,000 .....	\$4,000
\$250,001 to \$300,000 .....	\$5,000
\$300,001 to \$350,000 .....	\$5,500
\$350,001 to \$400,000 .....	\$6,000
\$400,001 to \$450,000 .....	\$6,500
\$450,001 to \$500,000 .....	\$7,500
\$500,001 to \$550,000 .....	\$8,500
\$550,001 to \$650,000 .....	\$9,500
\$650,001 to \$750,000 .....	\$10,500
\$750,001 and above .....	Add an additional \$1,500 for each \$100,000 increment.

### U.S. Coast Guard Contact Information:

National Vessel Documentation Center  
792 T J Jackson Drive  
Falling Waters, WV 25419  
(304) 271-2400 or (800) 799-8362  
FAX: (304) 271-2405  
[www.uscg.mil/contact/](http://www.uscg.mil/contact/)

## RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS

A documented vessel registration must be renewed every three years. The registration expires on June 30<sup>th</sup> in the year specified on the decal.

### Registration Renewal Checklist:

*To renew a documented vessel, the following must be submitted to either a contract office or the Central Office:*

- Documented Vessel Registration Renewal notice. *Note: If the notice was not received in the mail, you may still renew at a local contract office.*
- Paid personal property tax receipt listing the vessel **OR** a statement of non-assessment from the county (or city of St. Louis) collector or assessor for the previous year.
  - \* **If the boat or vessel is not listed on the tax receipt ("boat" is acceptable) and should have been, a corrected tax receipt (if manually corrected, it must contain the county seal) **OR** A letter from the county collector (on Letterhead or containing the county seal) reflecting payment of taxes must be submitted.**

### The applicant must pay:

- A Documented Vessel registration (decal) fee, based on the length of the boat or vessel
- \$9.00 processing fee

### Upon submission of all requirements and fees, the applicant will receive:

- Current Documented Vessel Registration Decals

## TEMPORARY PERMITS

Documented vessel owners may purchase a temporary permit to allow them to operate the vessel for 60 days while the applicant awaits the documentation from the United States Coast Guard. These temporary permits may not be renewed or transferred and are no longer valid upon issuance of a Documented Vessel Certificate of Registration (DOR-4086).

To obtain a temporary permit, the owner must submit (via mail or in person) the following to the *Motor Vehicle Bureau's Central Office in Jefferson City:*

- A completed and signed *Special Permits Application* ([Form 1275](#));
- Proof of purchase (**one** of the following):
  - Copy (or original) of the assigned original title; **OR**
  - Manufacturer's Statement of Origin; **OR**
  - The Abstract of Title; **OR**
  - Assigned Missouri Documented Vessel; **OR**
  - Certificate of Registration (DOR-4086); **OR**
  - A bill of sale;
- \$5.00 temporary permit fee; and
- \$9.00 processing fee.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Missouri Department of Revenue  
Motor Vehicle Bureau (Central Office)**  
PO Box 100, 301 W. High St., Room 370  
Jefferson City, MO 65105-0100

(573)526-3669

[mvbmail@dor.mo.gov](mailto:mvbmail@dor.mo.gov)

Website: [dor.mo.gov/motor-vehicle/watercraft/#docvessels](http://dor.mo.gov/motor-vehicle/watercraft/#docvessels)