Exemption from Boat Code

Vessels registered with the Australian Shipping Registration Office of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority may be exempted from Boat Code.

To apply for exemption you must produce the original Certificate of Australian Ship Registration, in the name of the owner to be recorded on the DPTI recreational vessel Certificate of Motor Boat Registration together with your application for registration and supporting documents.

A list of South Australian Boat Code Agents is available from any Service SA (SSA) Customer Service Centre, most boat dealers and the Government of South Australia website at:

**sa.gov.au/boatingmarine**

For further information call:

**SSA on 13 10 84**
What is Boat Code?

Boat Code is an identification system for registered recreational vessels.

Introduced on 1st September 2001, Boat Code is compulsory for all recreational vessels being registered in South Australia for the first time or when vessels change ownership.

Boat Code involves fixing a set of small plates bearing a Hull Identification Number (HIN) to the hull of a vessel as a security measure. The HIN is similar to Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) on motor vehicle compliance plates.

Each HIN is unique to the vessel and permanently linked to the hull.

All registered recreational vessel owners can apply for a HIN and take advantage of the security benefits Boat Code provides.

Advantages of Boat Code

Recreational vessels are desirable targets for thieves.

Boat Code is like a fingerprint for your vessel’s hull with each vessel receiving an individual HIN.

Each HIN is unique and recorded on a central register that is cross-referenced with boat registrations.

Anyone trying to sell or re-register a stolen vessel with Boat Code protection will be quickly caught out.

Experience demonstrates that Boat Code makes tracking stolen vessels easier.

Each Hull Identification Number is unique

A manufacturer’s HIN describes the hull’s country of origin, manufacturer’s identify code, a serial number, month and year of production and the model year.

A HIN issued by a Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) Boat Code Agent will include the country of origin, a serial number, agent code and the year it is affixed.

Applying for Boat Code

If you are registering your vessel in South Australia or applying for a change of ownership and the vessel does not have a HIN recorded you must:

1. Visit a Service SA (SSA) Customer Service Centre and apply for registration or new owner re-registration – interstate registrations are not transferable so the vessel must be registered afresh in South Australia.

2. Provide evidence of identity.

3. Provide proof of vessel ownership.

4. Pay the registration fee or new owner re-registration fee. You will receive a certificate of temporary motor boat registration that is valid for 21 days enabling you to use your vessel while you arrange to have the HIN plates validated or affixed.

5. Some vessels may have a HIN affixed but this HIN may not be in an acceptable format or not recorded on the vessel registration database. In these situations the existing HIN must be validated (if an acceptable HIN) or a new HIN affixed.

6. Take your vessel to a Boat Code Agent to validate or affix the HIN plates. A fee will be charged for this service. You will also need to present your certificate of temporary motor boat registration.

The Boat Code Agent will forward an interim Boat Code certificate to SSA and provide you with a copy.

Your full certificate of motor boat registration, registration label and permanent Boat Code certificate will then be posted to you.