

# Determining Your Recreational Vessel's Length

Maritime Safety | FACT SHEET

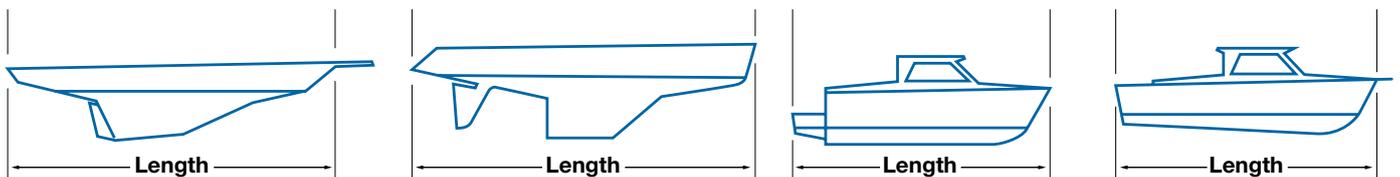
This fact sheet provides information about determining your recreational vessel's length.

Correctly recording the length of your vessel is important in helping to identify your vessel. These details, together with other vessel details such as the hull type, hull material and the Hull Identification Number (HIN) affixed to your hull, provide essential information that identifies your vessel and aids in the recovery of stolen vessels.

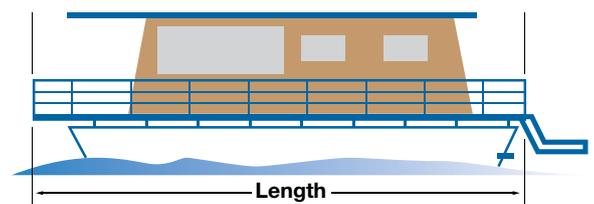
The length of the vessel is also used to determine the Registration Fee and the Facilities Levy that is payable when registering recreational vessels. It is therefore important that the length of the vessel is determined correctly.

## How should the vessel length be measured?

The hull length should be measured from the point of the bow to the transom, excluding bowsprits, outboard motors and other appendages. Any part of the vessel which contributes to the buoyancy of the vessel should be included in the vessel length e.g. pontoons on inflatable vessels or houseboats.



Include extensions that add to buoyancy



Houseboats – measure deck length only

**Note:** The information provided above is based on the provisions of the *Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2009* and is to be used as a guide only.

Copies of the Regulations can be obtained from the Government Legislation website at:

[www.legislation.sa.gov.au](http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au) – select 'Regulations and Rules', 'Alphabetical List of Regulations' then search under 'H' for *Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2009*. Regulation 10 relates to the determination of a recreational vessel's length.



# What if there is a discrepancy in the length of the vessel?

On rare occasions there may be a discrepancy between the measured length of the vessel and the length details recorded on the existing Certificate of Motor Boat Registration. This can be rectified as outlined below.

## Boat Coded vessels

When a vessel is inspected for a Hull Identification Number (HIN), the Boat Code Agent must measure the length of the vessel in accordance with the Harbors and Navigation Regulations 2009. The information recorded on the Boat Code Certificate is taken as correct and recorded on the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) boating registration database and this information cannot be changed unless amended by a new Boat Code Certificate – or where the information is recorded from the Boat Code Certificate incorrectly at a Customer Service Centre.

Should an owner believe the measured length has been recorded incorrectly from the Boat Code Certificate onto the DPTI boating database, the owner may request this information to be checked. Should the owner believe the length has been determined incorrectly at the time of Boat Code, the owner may apply to a Boat Code Agent for the length to be re-measured. The Boat Code Agent will charge a validation fee for the length of the vessel to be re-measured.

## Non Boat Coded Vessels

Where a vessel has not been inspected for the issue of a HIN the owner may apply for the vessel to be Boat Coded. The Boat Code Agent will inspect the vessel, affix a HIN plate to the vessel and record the vessel details, including the length, on the Boat Code Certificate for recording onto the boating database. The Boat Code Agent will charge a fee for this service. By applying for the vessel to have a HIN affixed the owner not only has the vessel's length determined correctly but gains the benefits provided through the Boat Code system.

Vessels can be checked by regular on-water compliance vessel inspections by Marine Safety Officers and South Australia Police or as a result of an audit of the boating database by DPTI.

## Further information

Contact the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (Maritime Safety)

Phone: 1300 183 046

[www.sa.gov.au/boatingmarine](http://www.sa.gov.au/boatingmarine)

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Department of Planning,  
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