DETERMINING YOUR RECREATIONAL VESSEL’S LENGTH

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. (See diagram below).

The pictures below are to help you in defining the length of a vessel

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.
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 remeasured. 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 gain the benefits provided through the Boat Code system.

Alternatively, if the vessel length has not been checked through the HIN (Boat Code) process and the owner believes the details are incorrect, the owner may determine the length of the vessel in accordance with the above instructions. Following this measurement, if the length details have been determined incorrectly, the owner may apply for the length to be amended by completing an *Application for Change of Motor Boat Details (MR183)* and submitting this form to any Service SA Customer Service Centre or via [www.sa.gov.au/boatingmarine](http://www.sa.gov.au/boatingmarine).

**Note:** In completing the *Application for Change of Motor Boat Details (MR 183)* a person must not, in providing any information, make a statement that is false or misleading, as they may incur a penalty of up to $2,500.

Vessels are regularly checked during on-water compliance vessel checks by DPTI Transport Safety Compliance Officers (Marine), Primary Industry and Resources South Australia (PIRSA) Fisheries Officers and South Australia Police; and audits of the boating database by DPTI.