

CANADIAN REGISTER OF VESSELS

STEP-BY-STEP APPLICATION FLOWCHART

Canadian Register of Vessels | Transport Canada



WHAT IS THE CANADIAN REGISTER OF VESSELS?

The Canadian Register of Vessels is a title system that tracks vessel ownership and vessel characteristics like tonnage, construction material and type.

Before you get started, it's important to understand that the Canadian Register of Vessels is divided into 2 parts:

SMALL VESSEL REGISTER (SVR)

You're required to register your vessel in the Small Vessel Register if your vessel is:

- a commercial (non-pleasure) vessel with a gross tonnage of 15 or less, and powered by a motor of 7.5 kW (10 horsepower) or more
- barge with a gross tonnage of 15 or less
- commercial river raft

If you want a unique vessel name or register a mortgage, you must register it in the Large Vessel Register, even if it qualifies to be registered in the Small Vessel Register.

If you travel internationally with your vessel, you may want to consider registering it in the Large Vessel Register.

LARGE VESSEL REGISTER (LVR)

You're required to register a vessel in the Large Vessel Register if your vessel:

- is a commercial vessel with a gross tonnage of more than 15 and powered by motors that total 7.5 kW (10 horsepower) or more
- is a barge with a gross tonnage of more than 15
- will have a marine mortgage registered with Transport Canada
- will have a unique vessel name
- is about to be built or is under construction in Canada

IMPORTANT

A certificate of registry is only valid once your vessel is properly marked.

Your certificate of registry is valid for 5 years.

If you operate an unregistered or unlicensed vessel, you could be fined.

PLEASURE CRAFT LICENCE

If your pleasure craft is used for recreational purposes, it may require a Pleasure Craft Licence if:

- it is equipped with one or more engines totaling at least 10 horsepower (7.5 kW), even temporarily, and
- it is principally operated and maintained in Canadian waters

Read [Apply for or manage a Pleasure Craft Licence \(PCL\)](#) for more information.

1 TYPES OF VESSEL OWNERSHIP

You must be an eligible owner.

ELIGIBLE OWNERS

- ✓ Canadian citizens
- ✓ Permanent residents
- ✓ Canadian corporations
- ✓ Federal or provincial governments
- ✓ Indigenous Bands
- ✓ Foreign corporations (with Canadian representative)

NOT ELIGIBLE

- ✗ Foreign individuals
- ✗ Partnerships
- ✗ Trusts

2 PREPARE YOUR DOCUMENTS

Gather the required documents.

PROOF OF OWNERSHIP

Provide all bills of sale (seller to buyer) showing full ownership history.

- Seller & buyer names & signatures
- Vessel description
- Date of sale

If seller is a foreign national, the bill of sale must be notarized.

Use Form 6 - Bill of Sale

VESSEL BUILT FOR YOU

Provide one of the following:

- Form 2 - Builder's Certificate for First Title (built in Canada) OR
- Foreign Builder's Certificate OR
- Declaration (see Missing Documents)

MISSING DOCUMENTS?

If you cannot provide bills of sale or builder's certificate, complete:

- Form 23 - Declaration (Small Vessel Register) OR
- Form 10 - Declaration (Large Vessel Register)

5 PORT OF REGISTRY (LARGE REGISTER ONLY)

Choose the Port of Registry - the location where your vessel is based and registered.

6 NAME YOUR VESSEL (LARGE REGISTER ONLY)

Provide a unique name choices in order of preference.

If any other Canadian city name or a famous Canadian person's name, an authorization letter is required.

IMPORTANT:

Applications submitted after this date must include:

- Form 4A with vessel photos, OR
- a valid tonnage measurement.

3 APPOINTING AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

An authorized representative is required when:

- there is more than one owner
- a foreign corporation owns the vessel
- the owner(s) want(s) to appoint a representative

Email your request with the completed document(s) to vr-ib@tc.gc.ca or include with your application.

4 VESSEL TONNAGE

Tonnage must be determined according to the Vessel Registration and Tonnage Regulation and TP 13430

Measurement of Vessel(s) by an approved tonnage measurer. Some small vessels may be owner-measured.

NEED HELP?

For general questions or if you can't submit or pay your application online, please contact: vr-ib@tc.gc.ca or 1-877-242-8770



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FRONT SIDE



AUTO-RENEWAL HAS ENDED!



Vessel owners must renew their registration manually.

If your registration is not renewed before it expires, your vessel will become **SUSPENDED**.

HOW TO RENEW YOUR REGISTRATION

1

CHECK REQUIREMENTS & EXPIRY DATE



Check your certificate expiry date and review renewal requirements.



Visit:

tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/vessel-licensing-registration/apply-manage-vessel-registration/how-apply

2

COMPLETE YOUR RENEWAL APPLICATION



Complete the required renewal application.

Use **Form 1** or **Form 20**, depending on the register your vessel is in.

Update your vessel information as needed.

3

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION



Submit your completed application and supporting documents.

Online:
tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/vessel-licensing-registration/apply-manage-vessel-registration/how-apply

Email: vr-ib@tc.gc.ca

Mail:
Transport Canada
Vessel Registration (AMSED)
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

4

PAY THE RENEWAL FEES



Pay the renewal fees as indicated.

Fee amounts are available online.



RENEWED!

Once processed, you will receive your updated Certificate of Registry. Keep it on board your vessel at all times.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- We will send a written reminder 60 days before your certificate expires.
- You can apply for renewal up to 60 days before the expiry date.
- We can only process your application up to 30 days before your certificate expires.
- It is your responsibility to renew before the expiry date.



MARKING REQUIREMENTS: MARKING YOUR VESSEL

Your certificate of registry isn't valid until your vessel is marked. You must permanently attach markings to the vessel. Make sure that changes or attempts to remove or replace them will not cause scarring or damage to the surrounding hull area. The requirement to mark your vessel varies based on the type of vessel you register.

Type of Vessel	What to Display	Where to Display the Information
Vessels registered in the Small Vessel Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Number: in block characters not less than 75 mm high and in a colour that contrasts with the background colour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Number: on each side of the bow of the vessel, or on a board permanently attached to the vessel as close to the bow as possible, so the number is clearly visible from each side of the bow.
Vessels registered in the Large Vessel Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: in readable letters (Latin alphabet and Arabic or Roman numerals) not less than 10 cm high • Port of registry: in readable letters (Latin alphabet and Arabic or Roman) • Not registered tonnage and official number: at least 4 cm high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name: on the stern and each side of the bow. • Port of registry: on the stern. • Not registered tonnage and official number: on a clearly visible interior structural part of the hull, mark "N.R.T." before the official number or "O.N." before the official number.
A pleasure craft or air cushion vehicle (hovercraft) registered in the Canadian Register of Vessels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of vessel and port of registry: in readable letters or (Latin alphabet and Arabic or Roman numerals) that are at least 10 cm high • Not register-able number or official number: block-type Arabic numerals that are at least 4 cm high 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of vessel and port of registry: on the exterior hull. Not registered tonnage and official number: on a clearly visible interior structural part of the hull, mark "N.R.T." before the not registered tonnage or "O.N." before the official number.

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