

QUICK REFERENCE CHART

Equipment	Requirement	Vessel Length (in feet)			
		<16	16-26	26-40	40-65
Certificate of Number (State Registration)	All undocumented vessels equipped with propulsion machinery must be state registered. Certificate of Number must be on board when the vessel is in use. Note that some states require all vessels to be registered.	X	X	X	X
State Numbering	(a) Plain block letters/numbers, not less than 3 inches in height, must be affixed on each side of the forward half of the vessel, in a contrasting color to the background, and read from left to right. (b) State validation sticker(s) must be affixed within 6 inches of the registration number. Note: check with your local boating agency for specific state requirements.	X	X	X	X
Certificate of Documentation	Applies only to "Documented" vessels: (a) Original and current certificate must be on board. (b) Vessel name/hailing port must be marked on exterior part of hull in letters not less than 4 inches in height. (c) Official Number must be permanently affixed on interior structure in numbers not less than 3 inches in height.		X	X	X
Life Jackets	(a) One Type I, II, III, or V wearable life jacket for each person on board. Must be U.S. Coast Guard-approved. (b) In addition, must carry one Type IV throwable device.	X	X X	X X	X X
Visual Distress Signals (VDS)	(a) One electric distress light, or three combination day/night red flares. Note: only required to be carried on board when the vessel is operating between sunset and sunrise. (b) Three combination day/night red flares – hand-held, meteor, or parachute-type, or one orange distress flag, or one electric distress light, or three hand-held or floating orange smoke signals and one electric distress light.	X	X	X	X
Fire Extinguishers	(a) One B-I (when enclosed compartment). (b) One B-II or two B-I. Note: fixed system equals one B-I. (c) One B-II and one B-I, or three B-I. Note: fixed system equals one B-I.	X	X	X	X
Ventilation	(a) All vessels built after April 25, 1940 that are gasoline-fueled with enclosed engine and/or fuel tank compartments must have natural ventilation (at least two ducts fitted with cowls). (b) In addition, a vessel built after July 31, 1980 must have a rated power exhaust blower.	X	X	X	X
Sound Producing Devices	(a) A vessel of less than 39.4 feet (12 meters) must, at a minimum, have some means of making an efficient sound signal – i.e., handheld air horn, athletic whistle. A human voice/sound is not acceptable. (b) A vessel 39.4 feet (12 meters) or greater, must have a sound-signaling appliance capable of producing an efficient sound signal, audible for 1/2 mile, with a 4- to 6-second duration.	X	X	X	X
Backfire Flame Arrestor	Required on gasoline engines installed after April 25, 1940, except outboard motors.	X	X	X	X
Navigational Lights	Required to be displayed from sunset to sunrise and in areas of restricted visibility.	X	X	X	X
Oil Pollution Placard	(a) Placard must be at least 5 by 8 inches and made of durable material. (b) Placard must be posted in each machinery space or at the bilge control station.			X	X
Garbage Placard	(a) Placard must be at least 4 by 9 inches and made of durable material. (b) Displayed in a conspicuous place notifying all on board of the discharge restrictions.			X	X
Marine Sanitation Devices	If there is an installed toilet, the vessel must have an operable MSD Type I, II, or III.	X	X	X	X
Navigation Rules (Inland Only)	The operator of a vessel 39.4 feet (12 meters) or greater while operating on U.S. inland waters must have on board a copy of these rules.			X	X