

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee

Committee Charter

Recognizing that accurate vessel information is the backbone of recreational boating safety data, the Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee works to advance boating safety by analyzing and advocating for thorough and precise vessel identification throughout a vessel's chain of ownership from the hull numbering to registration to titling.

Subcommittees for 2014 are Numbering & Titling Subcommittee and the Vessel Identification System (VIS) Coordination & Implementation Subcommittee.

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Numbering & Titling Subcommittee

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Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee

5-YEAR PLANNING GOALS

1. Have a universal Title Act in place based on the work of NCCUSL with an objective of 10% of the states or territories adopting [some form of] the Title Act into their vessel title laws.
2. Work with non-title states and territories in the adoption of vessel titling with a goal of adding three to five more states and/or territories onto the list of those that title vessels.
3. Assist states with planning for implementation of required changes to Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Reporting Database.
4. Encourage adequate resources and support be directed to National Vessel Documentation Center for notification to the states to occur. Increase awareness of the issue to the recreational boating professionals community.
5. Review the process of VIS, from becoming a member to the overall usage of the program, and make recommendations to strengthen its value as a resource to the states. Obtain a goal of adding 5 to 10 more states to the membership in 5 years.

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee

Numbering & Titling

State Members:

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The Numbering & Titling Subcommittee works and advocates for uniformity in the vessel registration and titling process. Areas of focus for the subcommittee include the Standard Numbering System, the Uniform Certificate of Title Act (UCOTVA), titling systems, and collection and dissemination of data on state numbering and titling.

2014 Charges

1. Assist the states and work with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) through their Enactment Committee, with promoting and supporting adoption of the Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act. Develop support materials & tiger team to provide legislative support for interested states.

Charge Leader: Sharon Carrick and Tom Guess.

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- E.M. Miller, a life member of the Uniform Law Commission spoke at the BLA Workshop in February 2014 regarding Virginia's Legislature passing UCOTVA. Mr. Miller also wrote two very informative articles for *Small Craft Advisory*. The first was titled "[Lessons Learned for Passage - Uniform Certificate of Title for Vessels Act](#)" and was published in the [May-June 2013](#) issue. The second article was titled "[UCOTVA, What's it good for?](#)" and was published in the [May-June 2014 issue of Small Craft Advisory](#). Virginia's transition is already underway, so the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, that administers the titling and registration of watercraft, would be an excellent source of information for those considering supporting UCOTVA. To read the Act, visit <http://www.uniformlaws.org> and click on "Acts", then on "[Certificate of title for Vessels Act](#)".

2. Develop an educational product to inform states and their agents about HIN Validation. Develop a "Registration & Titling 101" educational product targeted to frontline registration and titling people.

Charge Leader: Mike England, Madelynn Fenske & Janice Santos

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- The committee developed the following materials to aid the states in implementing the changes to the CFR.
 - HIN Verification and validation [PowerPoint Presentation](#)
 - Steps for States to Implement USCG Changes ([.doc](#)) / ([PDF](#))

3. Develop resources to assist states in setting up a HIN Validation system to prepare for the implementation of the regulatory changes in the Standard Numbering System, Vessel Identification System, and Boating Accident Report Database. Final Rule issued March 28, 2012. Deadline for states to begin HIN Validation is January 1, 2017.

Charge Leader: Mike England, Madelynn Fenske & Janice Santos

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- See also Charge #2 Action Items/Products.
- Before taking any action relating to a vessel imported or manufactured on or after November 1, 1972, the issuing authority must determine whether the vessel has a primary HIN meeting the requirements of 33 CFR part 181, subpart C. If the vessel does not have a primary HIN, the state issuing authority must:
 1. Assign a primary HIN to the vessel; and
 2. Verify that the owner of the vessel has permanently affixed the HIN to the vessel in compliance with 33 CFR part 181, subpart C.

This means that a state may not issue, renew or update a certificate of number without first validating that the vessel has a properly formatted HIN.

- From the information received in the [Coast Guard's guidance letter](#), the committee developed a **flow chart** outlining the issuance requirements for homemade vessels as well as manufactured vessels that are 1972 or newer without a valid hull identification number.
 - [State Hull Identification Number \(HIN\) Flow Chart](#) (PDF)
- To aid in the verification requirement, the committee developed a **Model Certification Form** that states may use to require the owner of the vessel to complete and return to the issuing authority along with a picture or rubbing of the hull number affixed to the vessel.
 - [Certification of Placement of Hull Identification Numbers](#) (.doc)

4. Develop online community through NASBLA Connect to expand and facilitate discussions about recreational boating numbering and titling issues and resolutions with agencies and personnel involved in this field of work. Annually appoint from VIRT, a member who will coordinate with NASBLA staff details associated with and management of the community.

Charge Leader: Rick Barrera & Hannah Helsby

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- The committee has established an electronic community within [NASBLA Connect](#) for the VIRT committee titled "[Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling](#)". The main capabilities for this community are a discussion forum and a library function. The committee has created the community and all VIRT committee members are "into" the community.
- The committee's next goal is to identify documents to build the library function. Once we have a beginning level of activity and content within the community, we will move to begin identifying and involving state agency staff who may find the community useful.

5. Develop an online reference where states can go to find current registration fees, including title fees. This should also include documented vessel fees for each state.

Charge Leader: Sharon Carrick

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- This will be accomplished by having the Registration & Titling manual on-line as a reference tool, but only after NASBLA's website re-design is complete and states are given content management roles. The first level of the website transition is scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2014. In the months following, the NASBLA staff can begin training states on updating their content, etc. The timetable in which this online reference tool will be functional is based on the progress of the NASBLA website transition and development.

6. Complete review and update of NASBLA Model Procedures for:

Charge Leader: all committee members

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

All are available on the [VIRT committee page](#) at www.nasbla.org under "Model Procedures."

- Abandoned or Salvaged Recreational Vessels – Revised to remove salvaged vessels
- A Vessel Initially Numbered and Titled – Removed
- Registration of Documented Vessels – Revised
- Transfer of a Vessel Previously Titled in another State or Country – Removed
- State Numbering/Titling of a Previously Documented Vessel – Accepted as is
- Model Registration Procedure for Indian Tribe Exempt Vessels – Accepted as is
- Replacing Vessel Hull Identification Numbers / Assigning Vessel Hull Identification Numbers – Accepted as is

Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling Committee

VIS Subcommittee

State Members

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The Vessel Identification System (VIS) Coordination & Implementation Subcommittee works to assist the Coast Guard and the states with implementation of the Vessel Identification System and to provide guidance resources for states as they join and implement the VIS.

2014 Charges

1. Work to promote and increase state participation in the VIS. Concentrate on largest, coastal states.

Charge leader: All committee members

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- [Vessel Identification System \(VIS\) – State Participation Map](#) (PDF)
- 33 MOAs signed
21 MOAs not yet signed
2 States with barriers to participation

2. Develop e-learning products for vessel identification, registration and titling community. Develop an overview presentation for the Vessel Identification System (VIS) for members to use for presentations to stakeholders and decision makers.

Charge Leader: George Birdwell

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- A PowerPoint presentation was developed as an overview presentation, explaining the Vessel Identification System and how it works for Law Enforcement, Registration Offices and Marine Theft Investigators. This presentation is a “canned” presentation for members to use for presentations to stakeholders and decision makers.

- [United States Coast Guard Vessel Identification System \(VIS\): E-Learning Module](#)

3. Survey states participating in VIS. Assess customer satisfaction, needs and issues that need to be addressed. Make recommendations for continuous improvement.

Charge Leader: Brenda Verner

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- The [VIS Survey Questionnaire](#) was sent out through NASBLA via Survey Monkey to BLAs and Registration officials within each state.
- **RESULTS**
 - Of those that completed the survey and who's state is a member of VIS:
 - 62% of VIS members who completed the survey use VIS daily or weekly.
 - 71% of VIS members who completed the survey are "very satisfied" or "satisfied".
- Recommendations for improvement:
 - Access to lien-holder information would be useful.
 - Need the ability to generate a report from the information page that prints only those elements that are populated.
 - Requested that information be updated more frequently, potentially once per week.
 - Need 100% participation from all states. This would give the ability to search for a vessel in all states and to verify owner information.
 - Improve wildcard or partial number searches to get quality results.

4. Develop a policy position statement on how states should notify other states when a vessel is registered/titled in their state.

Charge Leader: Kem Kirk

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- **Policy Statement:**
The committee published the following policy statement:
[Interstate Notification of Registered/Titled Vessels](#)

5. Working with Numbering & Titling Subcommittee, identify a minimum of two performance metrics states can use to evaluate registration and title programs, ex:
<http://louiestat.louisvilleky.gov/>.

Charge Leader: Mike England

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- Performance metrics to evaluate registration and title programs:
 1. Baseline HIN accuracy (percentage of correct HIN's in each states database)
 2. Interstate Vessel Registration documentation to other states:
 - a. Does your state submit an interstate vessel registration document to other states when you register or title a vessel from another state?

- b. How often does your state submit an interstate vessel registration document to other states when you register or title from another state?

6. Working with Numbering & Titling Subcommittee, review measures of statistics and program uniformity for other government programs. Identify a minimum of two measures of program uniformity for states in registering and titling vessels.

Charge Leader: Mike England

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- Measurements of program uniformity for states in registering and titling vessels:
 1. Which states are actively pursuing to adopted UCOTVA?
 2. What is time period to obtain a title?
 3. What format does your state use to issue a Hull Identification Number?

Additional Notes:

5-Year Planning goal # 4: Encourage adequate resources and support be directed to National Vessel Documentation Center for notification to the states to occur. Increase awareness of the issue to the recreational boating professionals community.

2013-2014 Action Items/ Products:

- The committee invested a significant amount of time in discussions with the National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC) to better understand its challenges. Tim Skuby of the NVDC called into the 4/21/14 VIRT Committee meeting to discuss the office's challenges, capabilities and limitations at this time. After much discussion, the committee decided to pursue having NVDC include a statement on their certification form that the vessel owner must sign stating that he/she has submitted the title to the state. A benefit to this suggestion is that the responsibility would lie with the vessel owner rather than the NVDC or states. The committee will continue to research and have discussions with the NVDC and the USCG to determine how this process would work.