

NASBLA MODEL ACT FOR VESSEL DEALER/MANUFACTURER NUMBERS

This act originally was adopted by the membership of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators on Sept. 13, 2000. In 2005, the NASBLA Numbering & Titling Committee approved and recommended this version of the act to the NASBLA membership as part of the Association's Model Act Review and Standardization Project. The act was approved in revised form by the membership on Sept. 21, 2005.*

The act is intended to establish requirements for dealers and manufacturers in obtaining dealer certificates of number for vessels they use for demonstration or test purposes. Its provisions describe the contents of the certificate of number, and the form, display and use of the number.

See also the NASBLA Model Act for Vessel Titling, originally adopted by the membership in Sept. 1996; and the Model Act for Dealer/Manufacturer Licensing and the Model Act for Numbering and Titling of Non-Powered Vessels, both originally adopted Sept. 13, 2000. All of these acts were revised and subsequently approved by the membership on Sept. 21, 2005, as part of the aforementioned Review Project.

** As part of its review of all related numbering and titling acts, the Committee approved the use of common definitions for terms such as "Dealer," "Manufacturer," "Operate/Operation" and "Owner" across the acts and as applicable (Titling, Dealer/Manufacturer Licensing, Dealer/Manufacturer Numbering, and Numbering/Titling Non-Powered Vessels). Federal definitions from 33 CFR 173 were used as the basis for this standardization.*

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This act may be cited as the Vessel Dealer/Manufacturer Numbers Act.

1 Section 2. [*Applicability.*] The provisions of this act apply to vessels that are required to be
2 numbered in this state and are operated by a dealer or manufacturer for demonstration or test
3 purposes on the waters of this state.

1 Section 3. [*Definitions.*] As used in this act:

2 (1) "Dealer" means any person who engages wholly or in part in the business of buying,
3 selling, or exchanging for value new or used vessels, or both, either outright or on conditional
4 sale, bailment, lease, chattel mortgage or otherwise. A dealer must have an established place of
5 business for the sale, trade, and display of such vessels, selling [two or more] within any [twelve
6 (12)] consecutive months.

7 (2) "Dealer number" means a unique number that is assigned only to dealers or manufacturers
8 and is identifiable as such to law enforcement officers.

9 (3) "Demonstrated" or "Demonstration" means to operate a vessel on the waters of this state
10 for the purpose of selling, transferring, bartering, trading, negotiating or attempting to negotiate
11 the sale or exchange of any interest in a new or used vessel, including the operation of the vessel
12 by a dealer/manufacturer for purposes of testing the vessel. The term does not include the
13 operation of a vessel for personal purposes by a dealer or manufacturer or an employee of a
14 dealer or manufacturer, or by the friends or the members of the families of those persons.

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15 (4) “Issuing authority” means the [insert name of state agency designated by the legislative
16 body to administer the state’s vessel numbering system and the provisions of this act].

17 (5) “Manufacturer” means any person engaged in the business of manufacturing or importing
18 new vessels for the purpose of sale or trade.

19 (6) “Operate,” “Operated” or “Operation” means all operations of a vessel when it is at the
20 pier, idle in the water, at anchor, or being propelled through the water.

21 (7) “Person” means any natural person or individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation
22 or other entity.

23 (8) “State of principal operation” means the state on whose waters a vessel is operated or to be
24 operated most during a calendar year.

25 (9) “Vessel” means every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane, used or capable of
26 being used as a means of transportation on the water.

27 (10) “Waters of this state” means any waters within the jurisdiction of the state.

1 Section 4. [*Dealer Number Required.*] No dealer or manufacturer shall operate a vessel for
2 demonstration or test purposes as defined in Section 3 of this act, without first obtaining a dealer
3 certificate of number and displaying the number on the vessel.

1 Section 5. [*Contents of Application.*] The application for a dealer number shall be on a form
2 prescribed by the issuing authority and contain:

3 (1) The business name, address and telephone number;

4 (2) The signature and title of any officer of the business;

5 (3) Certification, under penalty of perjury, that the applicant is a vessel dealer or manufacturer
6 as defined in Section 3 of this act, and that the number will be used for demonstration or test
7 purposes only;

8 (4) A federal tax identification number;

9 (5) Any additional information that the issuing authority reasonably needs to determine the
10 qualifications and eligibility of the applicant.

1 Section 6. [*Contents of Dealer Certificate of Number.*] A dealer certificate of number shall
2 contain:

3 (1) The number issued by the issuing authority;

4 (2) Expiration date of the certificate;

5 (3) State of principal operation;

6 (4) Name and business address of the dealer or manufacturer; and

7 (5) The term “dealer demonstration” or “manufacturer demonstration” plainly marked on the
8 certificate.

1 Section 7. [*Form of Dealer Number.*]

2 (a) Each dealer number must consist of two capital letters denoting the state of the issuing
3 authority, as specified in Appendix A of 33 CFR Part 173, followed by:

4 (1) Not more than four numerals, followed by not more than two capital letters (example NH
5 1234 BD); or

6 (2) Not more than three numerals, followed by not more than three capital letters (example:
7 WN 567 EFG).

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8 (b) A number suffix must not include the letters “I,” “O,” or “Q” which may be mistaken for
9 numerals.

1 Section 8. [*Display of Dealer Number.*] The dealer number must be painted on or attached to
2 removable plates that are temporarily but firmly attached to each side of the forward half of the
3 vessel at the time the vessel is being operated for demonstration or test purposes. If more than
4 one vessel is being operated for demonstration or test purposes at the same time, separate dealer
5 numbers must be obtained for and displayed on each vessel being demonstrated or tested.

1 Section 9. [*Fees.*] The issuing authority may establish fees for issuance of initial, subsequent
2 and replacement dealer certificates of number.

1 Section 10. [*Use of Dealer Number.*] No dealer or manufacturer shall display a dealer number
2 on a vessel that is not being operated for demonstration or test purposes as defined in Section 3
3 of this act.

1 Section 11. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]