



Maritime BoatCode

Hull Identification Number (HIN)

BOAT CODE



BoatCode and HINs

BoatCode is a system that provides a means to positively identify a vessel. It does this through the use of a unique series of letters and numbers permanently marked on the hull of a vessel. This is known as a Hull Identification Number (HIN) and is affixed by either the manufacturer or Accredited BoatCode Providers.

The HIN database is used by Police as part of investigations concerning stolen vessels and it alerts them to any attempts to re-register a vessel reported as stolen.

The Australian Financial Security Authority uses the HIN database to provide greater security to people buying a second hand boat. The Personal Property Securities Register can check if there are any outstanding financial obligations attached to a vessel by contacting PPSR on 1300 007 777 or website www.ppsr.gov.au/buying-boat.

The Boating Industry Association also supports BoatCode and its members play an important role in the Department's work to deter vessel theft.

What is a HIN?

A HIN consists of a unique series of letters and numbers as shown below. A vessel's HIN can be displayed on a metal plate attached to the transom or it can be moulded or engraved on the hull.

Boat manufacturers have been required to mark all new vessels with a HIN meeting the required international standard (ISO 10087:2022) since February 2001.



COUNTRY CODE

HYPHEN

MANUFACTURERS IDENTIFICATION

SERIAL NUMBER

AGENT CODE

YEAR OF ISSUE

Registration

BoatCode Providers will issue boat owners with a HIN certificate which is required to have the number recorded on the vessel's registration with the Department.

Registration details are used to update the HIN database.

Why you need a HIN

A HIN gives a vessel a unique identity, which not only serves as a useful deterrent against theft, it significantly assists in the recovery of a stolen vessel.

Introduced in Western Australia as part of the BoatCode initiative in 2001, the numbering system has seen substantially improved recovery rates for stolen vessels fitted with a valid HIN.

The Department of Transport administers the BoatCode system, by maintaining the HIN database and including identification numbers on a vessel's registration record.

Who needs a HIN?

Every boat owner in Western Australia should ensure their vessel has a HIN – without it the vessel is at an increased risk of being stolen and recovering the property could be more difficult.

It is the responsibility of people buying, selling or transferring ownership of a vessel to ensure it has a valid HIN. A vessel cannot be transferred or registered without a valid HIN.

How to get a HIN

People wanting to obtain or verify a HIN will need to contact a Department approved agent, known as a BoatCode Provider (usually marine dealerships or suppliers).

BoatCode Providers are located throughout the State and can:

- verify a HIN on a new vessel;
- attach or verify a HIN before a vessel is sold;
- attach or verify a HIN before ownership of a vessel is transferred.

A full list of BoatCode Providers is available from the Department's website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/boatcode-and-hin.asp or by telephoning 13 11 56. **Fees will apply.**

What to do

Once a HIN Plate has been attached or verified on your vessel and the HIN Certificate has been completed, the provider will:

- Issue the owner with a Duplicate (pink) copy of the HIN Certificate for vessel registration or transfer of ownership.
- Forward the Original (blue) copy of the HIN Certificate, the "Application for a HIN" and "Proof of Acquisition" to the Department of Transport.

For vessel registration update or transfer of ownership, the Duplicate (pink) copy of the HIN Certificate must accompany the relevant forms for processing to the Department of Transport.

BoatCode partners



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Transport**

For more information about BoatCode, Providers or the BoatCode system, people can log on to the Department's website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine/boatcode-and-hin.asp or contact the Department on 13 11 56 or email BoatCode@transport.wa.gov.au.



Personal Property
Securities Register



Australian Government
Australian Financial Security Authority

Before you buy a watercraft from a private seller you should check that there are no existing security interests on it by searching www.ppsr.gov.au/buying-boat or phone 1300 007 777.



People with information about a stolen vessel can contact the Water Police on 9442 8600.



For more information about boat manufacturers who support BoatCode contact Boating Industry Association on 9227 7899.

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information. **May 2022**