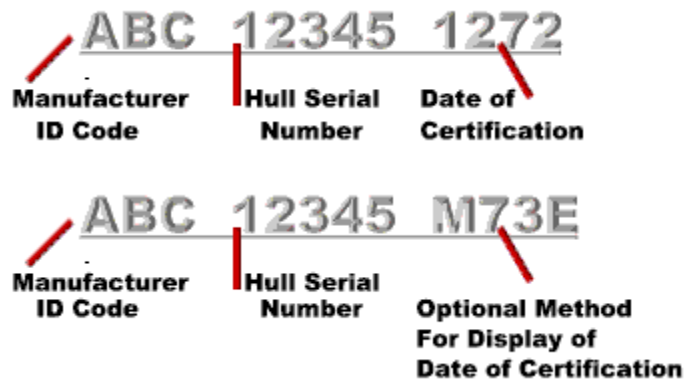


HIN formats after November 1972 and before November 1, 1984



AUG	A	FEB	G
SEP	B	MAR	H
OCT	C	APR	I
NOV	D	MAY	J
DEC	E	JUN	K
JAN	F	JUL	L

HIN formats after August 1, 1984



Some current requirements for a valid HIN are as follows:

- It must contain 12 uninterrupted digits comprised of English alphabet letters and Arabic numerals.
- **The letters I, O, and Q are prohibited from use within the manufacturer's serial number portion of the HIN (digits 4-8).**
- The first three digits must represent a valid Manufacturers' Identification Code (MIC) issued by the United States Coast Guard (USCG).
- The last four digits must comprise a proper dating code sequence containing the month and year of production as well as the model year of the boat.
- A two-letter country code may be installed to the left of the HIN and separated by a hyphen. **(ed. Note: This makes the HIN 14 characters.)**

Special considerations if third letter of a HIN is a "Z".

- When the third digit of a HIN is a "Z," this indicates that the HIN has been state-issued or "re-tagged." In these cases, the "Z" will be preceded by the issuing state's abbreviation (e.g. "NYZ" or "FLZ"). There are a few ways this can happen. It could have been a homemade boat and its builder requested that a HIN be issued by the state; this is completely legal and correct. Such a HIN may also indicate that the vessel had been sold as "salvage" and part or most of it was refurbished and presented as a "home built" or "custom made" boat. It may not look home made, but this too is legal within certain guidelines. The important thing is that you are advised of this before you buy the vessel so you can ask any questions you may have about its history and how it came to be re-tagged.