

Boat Registration, Boat Safety Scheme Certification & Insurance



Make sure your boat is safe and legally compliant

Anglian
Waterways

Before you go out on your boat you need to make sure it has the correct registration. Boat Insurance and Boat Safety Scheme Certification are an essential part of owning a boat. These provide reassurance that your boat is safe and legal.

Boat Registration

A valid registration plate, boat name & boat number must be displayed on your vessel.

All vessels kept, used or let for hire on our waterways need to be registered with the Environment Agency. This is also a requirement when moored in a marina or on private moorings. Contact our National Customer Contact Centre on **03708 506 506** or email **boatreg@environment-agency.gov.uk** and they will help you with the registration process.

Have you got the correct registration?

You will need to register with the Environment Agency for Anglian Waterways, but you can also buy a Gold Licence which enables you to use all Environment Agency and Canal & River Trust waterways. Gold Licences are only available to buy through the Canal & River Trust. A standard Canal and River Trust Licence will not cover you for Environment Agency waterways. The optional Anglian Pass can also be purchased

allowing unrestricted boating across the Environment Agency Anglian Waterways, the Conservators of the River Cam and the Middle Level Commissioners navigations. Visit **www.visitanglianwaterways.org** for more information.

What will happen if I don't register my boat?

The Environment Agency River Inspectors regularly patrol the waterways. If it's suspected that your vessel is non-compliant, enforcement action may be taken.

Failure to register your vessel is an offence under Article 18(1)(a) of the Environment Agency (Inland Waterways) Order 2010. Being found without a registration could lead to prosecution, a criminal record and a fine of up to £1000.

If you have sold your vessel it is a legal requirement for you to let us know who the new owner is. Until we receive a change of ownership form the vessel is still considered to be your legal responsibility.

The Boat Safety Scheme

This a public safety initiative owned by the Canal & River Trust and the Environment Agency. It combines essential safety needs and best safety practice advice. It sets out criteria for boat systems such as electrical installations, inboard/

outboard engines, appliances, ventilation and fuels. By law, your boat must comply with inland waterways standards for boat construction. Its purpose is to help minimise the risk of boat fires, explosions, pollution, harming visitors, boaters or our waterways.

Powered Boats

All powered boats, including houseboats, must have Boat Safety Scheme Certification or a Declaration of Conformity to Recreational Craft Directive (RCD). New boats should already comply with the safety standards and have a certificate as meeting the RCD. If your boat is:

- **fully fitted** - you need to get a Boat Safety Scheme Certification after four years.
- **sail away** - and if you're fitting it out yourself, you'll need to get a Boat Safety Scheme Certification as soon as you make any changes to the boat that fall within the requirements of the Boat Safety Scheme.

Boat insurance

The cost will vary depending on the age and type of boat, plus the type of cover you want.

- You need third party insurance cover for a minimum £1,000,000 before you buy a boat registration.
- You may also choose to take out a comprehensive policy to cover your own boat, its contents and crew.

When buying insurance read the small print carefully, especially when it comes to salvage costs in case the worst should happen. Not all policies cover salvage following a sinking, or a fire, and the recovery costs can often be thousands of pounds.

Canoes, Kayaks and Paddleboards

Unpowered craft may not need the same level of cover. It may be an option to get group insurance through a club, and they will be able to advise on the best type of policy.

Boats with no gas, electrical, heating or fuel systems are exempt, but double check this with the Boat Safety Scheme.

Canoes, Kayaks and Paddleboards

Open craft such as canoes, rowing boats or dinghies, or craft that have no engine are often referred to as unpowered vessels. They do not routinely require Boat Safety Scheme Certification. However, if you are not sure check with the Boat Safety Scheme, or contact the Environment Agency National Customer Contact Centre on **03708 506 506**.

Terminology

Boat, Craft or Vessel?

These are often used interchangeably. Vessel is a more formal term and is used when referring to statutory requirements, such as registration. Craft is used when boat doesn't fit, eg paddleboards. Boat usually refers to powered craft, but it can be applied to unpowered eg rowing boats.

Registration or Licence?

Again these are often used interchangeably. However, registration is the preferred term we use but often boaters do refer to the term licence.

Boat Safety Certificate or Certification?

Originally paper certificates were issued but as all the records are now held electronically and no certificate is issued, certification is the new reference term used.

Useful Contacts and Information

Anglian Waterways Anglian Pass

www.visitanglianwaterways.org

Canal and River Trust

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Boat Safety Scheme

www.boatsafetyscheme.org



Scan for
Anglian Waterways
website

www.visitanglianwaterways.org

