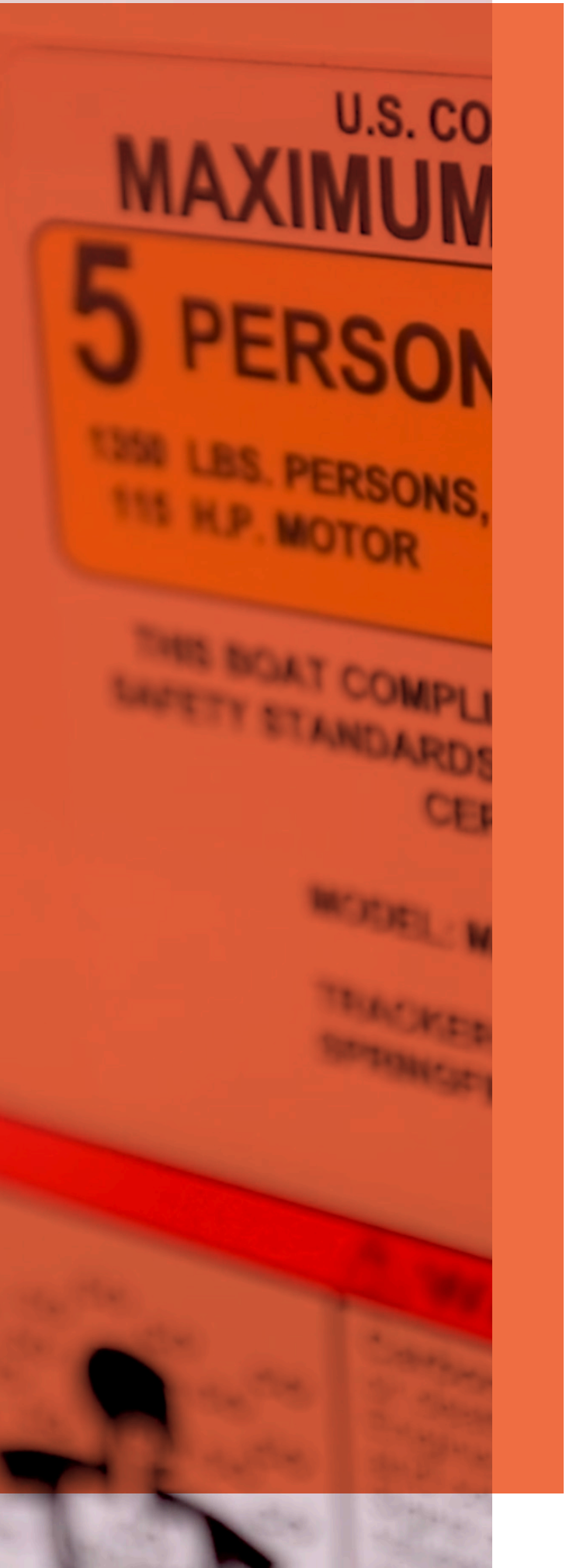


BOAT BUILDER'S HANDBOOK

2021 Edition

MANUFACTURER CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

33 CFR 181 SUBPART B

Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 2

1. APPLICABILITY 2

2. CERTIFICATION LABEL CONTENT 3

3. CERTIFICATION LABEL LOCATION 5

4. CERTIFICATION LABEL DURABILITY 5

5. APPENDIX 1. 33 CFR 181 SUBPART B
– MANUFACTURER CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE 6

INTRODUCTION

This guideline explains the process for the manufacturer (or importer) to properly self-certify boats as being in full compliance with all applicable USCG safety regulations.

> TAKE HEED: Boat builder compliance means fully meeting all applicable regulations. The Boatbuilder's Handbook provides a basic introduction and summary of the regulations. Builders need to refer to the actual regulations for the complete text of the regulation to ensure full compliance. It is the boat manufacturer's responsibility to review, understand, and comply with all applicable regulations.

1.0 APPLICABILITY

> Per 181.5 – 181.17: Boat manufacturers (and importers) must affix a certification label when the boat must meet any of the safety regulations of Part 183. The exact certification statement and additional content is specified; the label character size is specified. Additional information that may be included on the certification label is specified.

1.1 WHEN CERTIFICATION LABEL IS REQUIRED

A certification label is required if the boat must meet any of the following Part 183 safety regulations:

For monohull boats under 20 feet in length:

- Display of Capacity Information
- Safe Loading
- Safe Powering
- Flotation
- Ventilation (if applicable)

For boats with an installed gasoline engine:

- Electrical Systems
- Fuel Systems
- Ventilation

All boats with installed navigation lights.

This is a manufacturer self-certification telling the boat purchaser that the boat meets all applicable regulations; the USCG does not certify the boat.

The certification label must be affixed before the boat is delivered or imported for sale to the U.S. public.

1.2 COMPLETE BOAT KIT MANUFACTURERS

Manufacturers who provide complete boat kits (all materials and instructions provided) must meet all applicable regulations – including affixing (or providing) a certification label. A complete boat kit manufacturer has an obligation to provide detailed assembly instructions that, if rigidly followed, will result in a boat that conforms to the standards applicable to that boat type.

1.3 POSTING A CERTIFICATION LABEL WHEN NONE REQUIRED (USC4307)

Boat builders must not claim compliance with regulations when no 33 CFR Part 183 regulation applies. A certification label displayed on a boat that is not subject to safety standards is misleading in that a buyer or user may think that the boat meets safety regulations that do not apply. Canoes, kayaks, inflatable boats and sailboats without navigation lights are examples of boats that must not display a certification label.

2.0 CERTIFICATION LABEL CONTENT

The certification statement must be exactly as stated. (The CFR allows for an alternate 'stamp in the date' version - but that is rarely used.) The certification statement does not specify which regulations are applicable to the particular boat model; one version of the label covers a builder for all models and types of boats.

> THIS BOAT COMPLIES WITH U.S. COAST GUARD SAFETY
> STANDARDS IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF CERTIFICATION
> ABC BOAT COMPANY, INC
> WALLEYE, MN

The label with the standard statement does not include a date of certification; that date will be established when the hull identification number is assigned (as discussed in the next guideline).

The certification label must include the builder's company name and address. For the address – city and state is enough; the street address does not need to be included.

The certification regulation states that the only additional information allowed on the certification label is: model name / HIN / model year.

Because the certification label is often combined with the capacity label, the inclusion of the model name and model year is a good practice so that the correct label is applied to the correct model boat.

By USCG policy the following additional information is also allowed:

1. USA EPA evaporation control statement: "MEETS U.S. EPA EVAP STANDARDS USING CERTIFIED COMPONENTS" (exact wording not required).
2. California emission control statement: "MEETS 'YYYY' CALIFORNIA EVAP EMISSION REGULATIONS FOR SPARK IGNITION MARINE WATERCRAFT" (exact wording not required).
3. Manufacturer's website.
4. Manufacturer's e-mail address.

FIGURE 1 Combined USCG Capacity & Certification Label with EPA Statement



2.1 CERTIFICATION LABEL CHARACTER SIZE

The letters of the certification statement and the builder (importer) name and address must be at least 1/8 inch in height. It is recommended that builders print the label in all capital letters to most easily meet this requirement. When the certification label includes both uppercase and lowercase characters, the lower-case characters must have a minimum height of 1/8 inch.

3.0 CERTIFICATION LABEL LOCATION

Builders frequently combine the certification label with the capacity label. The capacity label must be placed in a location visible to the operator when getting underway. There is no location specified for a standalone certification statement. As a best practice, the USCG recommends that a standalone certification label also be placed in a location visible to the operator when getting underway; meaning, in a location viewable from the helm.

4.0 CERTIFICATION LABEL DURABILITY

The information on certification labels must be capable of withstanding the combined effects of exposure to water, oil, salt spray, direct sunlight, heat, cold and wear expected in normal use of the boat without deterioration of legibility. Each label must be made of a material that shows visible traces of the alteration or removal of information on the label.

Appendix 1. 33 CFR 181 Subpart B – Manufacturer Certification of Compliance

§ 181.5 PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY.

This subpart prescribes requirements for the certification of boats and associated equipment to which 46 U.S.C. Chapter 43 applies and to which a safety standard prescribed in Part 183 of this chapter applies.

§ 181.7 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION LABEL REQUIRED.

Unless there is affixed to it a certification label that contains the information required by § 181.15:

(a) No person who manufactures, constructs, or assembles a boat or associated equipment may deliver that boat or equipment for the purpose of sale;

(b) No person may import into the United States any boat or associated equipment; and

(c) No person engaged in the business of selling or distributing boats or associated equipment may sell or offer for sale any boat or associated equipment.

§ 181.9 AFFIXING LABELS.

(a) Each manufacturer of a boat or item of associated equipment to which a standard or regulation prescribed in Part 183 of this chapter applies shall affix a certification label that contains the information required by § 181.15 to that boat or equipment before it:

(1) Leaves the place of manufacture for the purpose of sale; or

(2) Is imported.

(b) The manufacturer of a boat or item of associated equipment that is sold to a private label merchandiser may, at the option of the private label merchandiser, affix a certification label identifying the private label merchandiser as the manufacturer before the boat or item of associated equipment leaves the place of manufacture.

§ 181.11 EXCEPTIONS TO LABELING REQUIREMENT.

(a) This part does not apply to boats or associated equipment intended solely for export, and so labeled, tagged, or marked on the boat or equipment and on the outside of the container, if any, which is exported.

(b) If an item of associated equipment is so small that a certification label that meets the requirements in § 181.15 cannot be affixed to it, a certification label that contains the information required by § 181.15 may be printed on the smallest container in which the item is packed or on a slip packed with the item.

(c) This subpart does not apply to any outboard motor or starting control to which § 183.710 of this chapter applies.

§ 181.13 REMOVAL OF LABELS.

No person may remove a label required by this part or remove or alter any information on a label required by this part, unless authorized by the Commandant.

§ 181.15 CONTENTS OF LABELS.

(a) Each label required by § 181.7 must contain:

(1) The name and address of the manufacturer or private label merchandiser who certifies that the boat or item of associated equipment complies with the standards prescribed in Part 183 of this subchapter; and

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the words:

(i) "This (insert 'Boat' or 'Equipment') Complies With U.S. Coast Guard Safety Standards In Effect On (insert date of certification as prescribed in paragraph (b) of this section)"; or

(ii) If the item being certified is a boat, the label may show the words, "This Boat Complies With U.S. Coast Guard Safety Standards In Effect On The Date of Certification."

(b) Date of certification must be no earlier than the date on which construction or assembly began and no later than the date on which the boat or item of associated equipment leaves the place of manufacture or assembly or import for the purposes of sale.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, the manufacturer may, in addition to the information required by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, display on the certification label any or all of the following information:

(1) Model name or designation.

(2) Hull identification number (if a boat) or serial number (if an item of associated equipment).

(3) Model year.

(e) Display of the hull identification number on the certification label does not satisfy the display requirements of § 181.29.

(f) Each boat which displays a maximum horsepower capacity determined in accordance with § 183.53(b) must, in addition to the information required by paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) of this section, display on the certification label, the following statement in letters no less than one-quarter of an inch in height:

THIS BOAT IS INTENDED FOR RACING AND OTHER HIGH PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES. THE SKILL REQUIRED MAY EXCEED THE ABILITIES OF SOME OPERATORS.

§ 181.17 LABEL NUMBERS AND LETTERS.

Letters and numbers on each label must:

(a) Be no less than one-eighth of an inch in height; and

(b) Contrast with the basic color of the label, except that the date of certification may be permanently stamped, engraved, or embossed on the label.

§ 181.19 CONSTRUCTION OF LABELS.

(a) Each label must be made of material that can withstand exposure to water, oil, salt spray, direct sunlight, heat, cold, and wear expected in normal use of the boat or item of associated equipment without deterioration of legibility.

(b) Each label must be made of material that shows visible traces of the alteration or removal of information on the label.