



National Database of Vessel Information

April 2014

The Compliance Bulletin is an online newsletter published by the NMMA Engineering Standards Department. It addresses issues regarding compliance, industry news, new standards and the NMMA Certification Program. If there is someone you would like to add to this newsletter subscription, please contact Compliance Bulletin editor, **Thomas Marhevko** at tmarhevko@nmma.org.

National Database of Vessel Information

In 2012, a partnership of NMMA and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) established a national database of vessel information, that in August, NMMA and NICB agreed to a joint endeavor whereby NMMA members would voluntarily supply vessel information to NICB to establish a comprehensive database. This boat manufacturing data was to be used by law enforcement, the insurance industry, and the Coast Guard to assist in vessel identification, the recovery of stolen vessels, crime deterrence and accident investigation.

This program was developed in response to the Coast Guard's attempt to increase the HIN to 17 characters, which the marine industry opposed because of the additional costs it would impose. The NICB boat database contains vital information that would have been included in a 17-character HIN.

Though participation was initially voluntary, the terms of the NMMA/NICB/USCG agreement required full participation of boat manufacturers to ensure the database's effectiveness. During the first two years of the program, eight manufacturers participated in the boat database, providing data to NICB for 19 boat brands.

Because of the importance of this program and the driving goals of NICB and the CG in this area, **the program is no longer voluntary.**

At the February meeting of the NMMA Boat Manufacturers Division Board, the Board voted to make participation in the NICB Database program mandatory for NMMA Boat and Yacht Certification.

The NICB database system allows law enforcement officers in the field to query the database and quickly find information about vessels. NICB will maintain the system, ensuring only appropriate investigative staff can access it, and in the case of prosecution, provide witnesses and affidavits for the court. This service will relieve a manufacturer from providing testimony in such a case. Participation in this program serves the entire recreational boating industry.

This program has been introduced to the industry in various Compliance Bulletin articles and discussed at the NMMA's Engineering Compliance Seminar in Nashville. All NMMA inspectors will be distributing program information during their compliance inspections. As we are in the middle of the 2014 Model Year (MY), this requirement will go into effect for the 2015 MY.

However, we urge you NOT to wait for 2015 to begin participation in the program. We must

demonstrate good faith with the NICB and the USCG with many more manufacturers participating right now! It is as simple as filling in a few fields in an Excel spreadsheet for each boat manufactured for sale.

To learn more information about NICB and to sign up for the program, please contact Donna Conick with NICB at dconick@nicb.org. For additional questions contact Thomas Marhevko at tmarhevko@nmma.org.

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