



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767

TDD 401-222-4462

Office of Boat Registration & Licensing

3rd Floor, Room 360 (401) 222-6647

Web: www.dem.ri.gov

BOAT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

New Boat:

1. Bill of Sale on Dealer's Letterhead
2. MSO - Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (First Assignment must be completed by Dealer/Manufacturer)
3. Customer is required to complete paperwork to title and register both boat & motor:
RI title application must be notarized
 - a. Boat Registration Application & fee
 - b. Outboard Motor Registration Application & fee
 - c. Application for Initial Vessel Certificate of Title (RIGL §46-22.1-3 vessels 14' in length or less are not required to be titled) & fee
 - d. Pencil tracing of Hull Identification number (HIN); to conform to USCG requirements for verification.

Used Boat:

1. Sellers signature to be **Notarized** on Bill of Sale or Gift Statement
2. Title signed and notarized from bonafide seller or most current registration certificate (in seller's name) if the boat is coming from a non-title state. Please note, RI is a title state.
3. Customer is required to complete paperwork to register both boat and motor:
RI title application must be notarized
 - a. Boat Registration Application & fee
 - b. Outboard Motor Registration Application & fee
 - c. Application for Initial Vessel Certificate of Title (RIGL §46-22.1-3 vessels 14' in length or less are not required to be titled) & fee
 - d. Pencil tracing of Hull Identification number (HIN); to conform to USCG requirements for verification.

US Coast Guard Documented Vessel:

Copy of US Coast Guard Documentation Certificate in the owner's name and completed documented boat registration application.

USCG Documentation to State Registration:

If the vessel was previously documented with the Coast Guard, a notarized bill of sale from the seller and a **letter of deletion** from the Coast Guard must accompany a copy of the seller's documentation from the previous owner.

Note: Any vessel (new or used) requesting RI registration, entering US through Customs, must provide appropriate paperwork along with registration forms.

Outboard Motor:

1. Sellers signature to be **Notarized** on Bill of Sale or Gift Statement
2. 7% Sales Tax Receipt (on motors purchased from Retailer, if purchased from private party, tax exempt. Please note, all taxes must be paid prior to registration). If motor is a gift, must provide documentation that donor had motor registered or proof of tax payment by donor must be provided.
3. Completed Outboard Motor Registration Application & fee

Please Note: Failure to supply the proper documentation will result in the delay of registration

What do I need register a Homemade Boat?

- Copies of all building material receipts including sales tax paid on materials
- Picture of Boat (finished product)
- **Notarized** statement including (cost of all material, full description, construction plans, etc.)
- Boat inspection through our RI DEM Enforcement Division .
- Please contact 401-222-3070 (DEM Enforcement)

Do I have to register my boat trailer?

Yes. Boat trailers must be registered with the [RI Division of Motor Vehicles](#), 600 New London Ave., Cranston, RI 02920 **401-462-4368**.

Are personal watercrafts aka Jet Skis required to be registered?

Yes, Personal watercrafts are registered in the same way as vessels.

- New (bill of sale on dealers letterhead, MSO)
- Used: Notarized Bill of Sale, a title (if applicable) signed and notarized from bonafide seller, and or most current registration from a non-title state.

I am operating a personal watercraft or Jet Ski, do I need a Safe Boating Course?

On January 1, 2002, a [new law](#) took effect making it mandatory for boaters to be certified in order to operate vessels on the waters of this State.

- Anyone born after January 1, 1986, who operates a vessel with a motor that exceeds 10-horse power is required to complete a Safe Boating Course.
- Anyone who operates a personal watercraft (Jet Ski) regardless of age.

NOTE: Boating Exams are offered through RI DEM Law Enforcement at 401-222-3070 or web address at: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/law/boating-safety-topics.php>

What about RVs, Snowmobiles, and Off-road Vehicles?

If purchased from a dealership the following is needed:

- Bill of Sale from the dealer on their letterhead (Owner is required to have a VIN number and a motor serial number listed on the Bill of Sale.)
- Proof of Sales Tax paid (7%)
- Original completed MSO (Manufacturer's Statement of Origin), signed & notarized

If purchased from a private party:

- Notarized Bill of Sale (Owner is required to have a VIN number and a motor serial number listed on the Bill of Sale.)
- Proof of Sales Tax paid (7%)
- Copy of Previous Registration (in-state or out-of-state)
- RV/Snowmobile Registration Fees:

Checks payable to State of RI-DEM

