



Homeland
Security

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
District 11 Northern Region

Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah



Instructions on how to Perform VSC's for Rental Agencies

All D11NR Vessel Examiners,

Vessel Safety Checks (VSC's) performed on rental vessels are different than performing them at a launch ramp, a yacht club, or visiting a large vessel in a marina. At these locations, we are there to verify that the vessel has the equipment on board at the time of the VSC. At the rental agency, we want to make certain that the agency understands how to properly equip the vessel. The rental customer needs to know where the safety equipment is located, is briefed on the proper use, and is educated on basic boating safety laws. In addition, we want to make certain that the rental agent is fully knowledgeable about the vessel safety equipment requirements, basic boating laws, and is able to answer any safety related questions. We also want to provide boating safety information, either the ABC's or Federal Requirements. So, this program requires a Program Visitor **AND** a Vessel Examiner, at least on the initial visit.

You should make make a phone contact and hopefully speak to the owner or manager and briefly describe the program, and with a PV plan a visit. Possibly a name, address, or an email address can be provided so a letter and a copy of the agreement can be provided for their review. Explain that you would like to call back in a few days and schedule an interview to further explain the program, answer any questions and have a signing of the rental agreement. **PLEASE** make it clear that this is at **NO COST** to them and **NO** report is made to ANY law enforcement agency or insurance company. Plan to dress the same uniform, whether in tropics or ODU's, but dress the same and neatly.

On your visit, explain that you would like them to demonstrate how they equip their vessels: lifejackets, fire extinguishers, whistles, etc. per the length and type of vessel. You may make suggestions based on the VSC form 7012 or 7012A. Be prepared to validate your suggestions with the Calif ABC's or Federal Requirements. For example, ask if they fit children under 12 with a lifejacket. Explain the type IV and make certain that each vessel over 16' except paddle craft have one. Also explain that by law **ALL** vessels including paddle craft need at a whistle. However, it is **NOT** your responsibility to provide it unless your flotilla has a source.

After you feel comfortable with their presentation and have the signed agreement (2-copies), make an appointment for the VSC's. Pass or fail, be certain to fill out either fill out the 7012 form or 7012A form and issue a decal for each vessel. Make certain that **ALL** required safety equipment is in stock and available at the time of a rental. Explain that you reserve the right to perform a brief unannounced spot check during the boating season to make certain that the counter personnel are equipping each vessel properly and each customer is receiving a copy of the ABC's or Federal Requirements in addition to a brief safety talk.

Whatever you do, please do not put the owner or manager in an uncomfortable position by lecturing them. Be polite, professional, and offer constructive comments. You are there to help, not hinder their business.

NEW A copy of each rental agreement, including the total number of vessels to be examined must be submitted to the DSO-VE for approval along with planned examination date(s) and including planned revisit dates **PRIOR** to any activity at the agency. Subsequent visits by Vessel Examiners are limited to no more than 4-times a year and **ONLY** new vessels can be counted as a new VSC. Approval is required by the DSO-VE prior to any additional VSC activity. PV's can visit as often as the need arises. At least (2) vessel examiners **MUST** examine each vendors vessels and equipment with the total VSC'S being split equally between all examiners in attendance with each submitting their own 7038. There **MUST** be a completed 7012 or 7012A **AND** a VSC decal for each vessel. The dealer and Vessel Examiner will each retain their copies for the calendar year. Finally, the DSO-VE reserves the right to audit any rental VSC activity at any time during the year. If you have ANY questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mike Lauro DSO-VE