

CA, NV, & UT Legal Requirements for Recreational Boats*

(non-Paddlecraft)

Boat Length	<16'	16' to <26'	26' to <40'	40 to <65'	Notes
Display of Numbers	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3" block letters - Contrast to hull Except documented boats
State Registration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Must be on board vessel
Documentation		Yes	Yes	Yes	Name and hailing port on boat, 4" numbers etched into hull, original documentation certificate on board (documented boats only)
Life Jackets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	One for each person. Type IV throwable for boats over 16'. (Nevada requires a line be attached to the type IV PFD for boats 26' and over.)
Visual Distress Signals (VDS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	A combination of (3) day/night required on coastal waters as defined by either the ABC's of Calif. Boating or by the Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats. VDS not required for use on inland waters except by local regulation or if the vessel is operating between sunset and sunrise. For night use in inland waters for all vessels and for vessels <16' on coastal waters a flashlight is ok.
Fire extinguishers	1BI	1BI	2BI or 1BII	3BI or 1BI and 1BII	B is for flammable liquids, 1 is 2 lbs, 2 is 10lbs
Backfire flame arrester	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Inboard gas engines only in an enclosed compartment - Must be clean
Sound Producing Device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Horn or whistle (+ bell for > 65')
Navigational lights	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Installed lights must work
Oil Pollution Placard	No	No	Yes	Yes	Where to discharge oil
MARPOL (garbage placard)	No	No	No	No	Where to discharge trash and a written trash plan for vessels over 40 feet: Not applicable until further notice
Marine Sanitation device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Must be possible to prevent discharge overboard
Navigation rules aboard	No	No	No	Yes	
Overall Condition	(a) Deck Free of Hazards/ Clean Bilge (b) Electrical/Fuel Systems (c) Galley/Heating Systems (as applies)				

***This is only a quick reference guide and not meant to be all encompassing. Please refer to your state and local jurisdictions for more information in your area.**