

Vessel Safety Check

Vessel safety checks are generally performed on recreational boats under 65 feet. Vessel safety check requirements parallel federal and individual state regulations regarding equipment and safety conditions of the vessel. VSC is not a law enforcement action. No official report is made to any law enforcement agency.

A vessel safety check is only performed with the owners consent and he/she must be present at the time of the VSC. The owner of the vessel will be presented a “Vessel Safety Check” decal depicting not only a successful completion of the safety check but a demonstration to the rest of the boating world that the owner is operating a safe vessel.

A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is as follows:

- A voluntary check of vessel compliances with all federal and state laws
- An authorized boating safety activity contributing to the Coast Guard/ US Power Squadron recreational boating safety mission
- Opportunity for the exchange of safety information

The following requirements will be checked on all recreational boats less than 65 feet.

- Display of vessel's numbers
- Registration of the boat
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFI)
- Visual Distress Signals; flares
- Fire Extinguisher for boats over 26 feet
- Ventilation
- Backfire flame control (inboards)
- Navigation Lights
- Marine Sanitation Devices (if aboard)
- Navigation Rules Overall Vessel condition

Items that will not be inspected but encouraged to talk about.....

- Marine Radio
- Anchor and anchor line
- First Aid Kits
- Safe boating class
- Float plan
- Insurance

This check will last about 10-15 minutes and I will do all the paper work(very little) and present the captain/owner with a complete copy of the VSC. I will describe that boats under 26 feet have less requirements than the larger ones.

Thank you and safe boating

Ed Wetmore