

VALIDATION STICKERS — Housekeeping

What is being considered?

The department needs to clarify the regulation for validation stickers. Specifically:

- 1) The reference to the statute is incorrect and will be updated;
- 2) The regulation needs to specify that two stickers are required on the vessel;
- 3) The regulation needs to specify that the stickers need to be placed within six inches of the vessel identification number; and
- 4) There needs to be a process specified in regulation for a temporary sticker issued to an individual when they purchase a vessel from a licensed dealer.

Why is this change necessary?

The Annotated Code of Maryland and the Code of Federal Regulations have requirements for validation stickers. The number and placement of the stickers need to be clarified in regulation so that Maryland is in compliance with the federal rules.

Currently, there is an incorrect reference to a statute. The current regulation references Natural Resources Article, §8-712, the reference should be to Natural Resources Article, §8-712.1.

In order to use Maryland waters, a vessel numbered by Maryland must have 2-year validation stickers affixed to the vessel. There are two scenarios where an individual may not receive their 2-year sticker immediately. The department would like to authorize a boat owner to display temporary stickers or provide proof of purchase for a certain period of time to allow for a delay in shipping of validation stickers.

The first exemption would be for an individual who purchases a vessel from a Maryland licensed boat dealer. If the vessel that the individual purchases will be titled in Maryland, the individual receives temporary registration decals. The temporary decals are only issued by a Maryland licensed boat dealer and are only valid for 60 days. After the purchase, the dealer provides all of the information to the department. The department then issues the validation stickers to the purchaser. The temporary decals must be displayed until the customer receives the 2-year stickers. Currently, the ability to operate in Maryland waters with temporary decals is not permitted.

The second exemption would be for an individual who purchases validation stickers from a location (online or authorized vendor) other than a Department of Natural Resources licensing service center. These individuals would not receive a decal immediately. The department would process the request and mail the stickers to the individual within ten calendar days. The transaction would be listed on the individual's receipt. The department would like to establish an exemption that allows a licensee to provide proof of purchase for up to ten days in lieu of the stickers being affixed to the boat. The individual who purchased the validation stickers must be present on the boat and be in possession of their receipt that shows the date the stickers were purchased. If the purchaser is not on the boat, does not have the proof of purchase in possession, or more than ten calendar days have passed, then the vessel may not be used on Maryland waters.

These changes represent the current process for boating and other decals issued by the department. The requirements are communicated to vessel owners, but are not included in regulation. Establishing these procedures in regulation will make it clear for everyone.

Who will this affect?

A boat owner whose vessel is used principally on Maryland waters for pleasure.

Has this change been discussed with advisory bodies?

The idea was presented to the Boat Act Advisory Committee (BAAC) at their meeting on April 29, 2021. The department and the BAAC will continue to gather and update information.

What is the specific regulatory action?

Amend Regulation .10 under COMAR 08.04.03 Certificate of Boat Number.

When will this be effective?

The department expects this change to be effective in 2021, however the exact date cannot be determined. The department will follow our normal scoping and proposal procedures.

This idea is in the scoping process. The goal of scoping is to identify issues, potential impacts, and reasonable alternatives associated with the issues so that management actions can be developed. After the public has had an opportunity to comment on possible management actions during the scoping process, the department considers these comments and develops an appropriate management strategy.

If the action is necessary and appropriate, the rules will be promulgated following the Administrative Procedures Act described in Title 10, Subtitle 1 of the State Government Article Annotated Code of Maryland.

- The General Assembly’s Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee reviews the regulatory proposal for fiscal and legal analysis.
- The proposal is printed by the Division of State Documents in the Maryland Register.
- A 30-day public comment period begins on the day of publication.
- After review of the comments, the department may adopt the changes.
- If the department adopts the changes, they become effective after a notice is published in the Maryland Register that announces approval and the effective date.

Additional Information and Links

Federal Code of Regulations: [33 CFR §174.15](#) Validation stickers

Code of Maryland Regulations: [COMAR 08.04.03.10](#)

Annotated Code of Maryland: [Natural Resources Article, §8-712.1](#)

Notes Regarding This Summary

This summary is prepared in accordance with the requirements of State Government Article, §10-110, Annotated Code of Maryland. It is intended to help you understand the potential or revised rules. This summary is not intended to replace or supersede these rules, but to facilitate understanding and compliance with the rules. The department will clarify or update the text of the summary as the idea moves through the regulatory process.