

Motor Vehicle Procedure Manual
Vessel Registration
Registration of Canoes

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Legal Authority

[Section 328.48, Florida Statutes](#), requires that only canoes propelled by motors be registered.
[Section 327.02\(5\), Florida Statutes](#), defines the term “canoe.”

Definitions

"Canoe" means a light, narrow vessel with curved sides and with both ends pointed. A canoe-like vessel with a transom may not be excluded from the definition of a canoe if the width of its transom is less than 45 percent of the width of its beam or it has been designated as a canoe by the United States Coast Guard.

Description and Use

This procedure provides information and instructions for registration of canoes.

Authorized registration of canoes

A. CANOE CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

Provided all other characteristics remain constant, the key to determining whether a squared transom (back) canoe-like vessel is a canoe, is determined by the width of its transom. If the width of the transom is less than 45 percent of its beam (width at widest point), the vessel is considered a canoe.

Example: If the beam of a squared back canoe-like vessel is 36 inches, its transom cannot exceed 45 percent or 16.2 inches.

B. The annual registration fee, service fees and the FRVIS fee.

C. To charge canoe fees, you must select "CN" as the vessel type.

D. To reflect the registration, use of the vessel, enter "PL" for pleasure or the applicable commercial use code for canoe if it is being used for commercial purposes. When issuing a certificate of registration to a manufacturer or dealer, the registration should be created on FRVIS as a "dealer registration," therefore, no vessel information would be necessary.

Revision(s) to Procedure

Statutory review. Added Statute which defines canoe. Added links to statutes.

Historical Revision(s) to Procedure

10/23/2001 – Revised information in section III, B.