

Motor Vehicle Procedure Manual
Vessel Registration
Government Registrations/Decals

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Legal Authority

[Section 328.48\(3\), Florida Statutes](#), provides for the issuance of certificates of registration and numbers for city, county and state-owned vessels, charging only the service fees **required in s. 328.72(7) and (8)**, provided the vessels are used for purposes other than recreation.

Description and Use

This procedure provides information and instructions for the issuance of government registrations/decals.

Documentation and Special Instructions

Submit the following documentation to the tax collector's office or license plate agency for processing:

The vessel will be assigned a "FL" number, certificate of registration and decal.

- A. Original Application for Government Registration (must be operated by city, county or state and cannot be used for recreational purposes)
 - 1. Proof of ownership.
 - 2. Form [HSMV 87244](#), Application to Register Non-Titled Vessels, accurately completed.
 - 3. Fees.

- B. Original Application for Government Registration in Conjunction with a Title

Application.

1. Proof of ownership.
 2. Form [HSMV 82040](#), Application for Certificate of Title with/without Registration accurately completed.
 3. Title fees.
- C. Transfer of Government Registration between governmental agencies.
1. A bill of sale from the seller showing the name of the purchaser and a complete description of the vessel.
 2. Form [HSMV 87244](#), accurately completed. The new governmental agency will keep the same FL number.
 3. Fees.
- D. Registration Renewal
1. Provide a copy of the previous registration or renewal notice.
 2. Fees.

Miscellaneous Information

- A. If a government vessel is transferred to a private individual, and the vessel was not titled by the government agency, the new owner should make an application for an "Original Title." It will be processed as an "Original Title" and the registration will be transferred.
- B. Proper proof of ownership is the same as specified for any registration/title application.
- C. Registration should reflect a use of "GOVT" in use block by selecting "GV" for registration use.
- D. The completed application must be retained in the tax collector or license plate agency office for one year.

Revision(s) to Procedure

Statutory Review. Updated F.S.328.48(3). Added links to statute and forms.

Historical Revision(s) to Procedure

5/1/02 Added the vessel will be assigned a FL number, registration, and decal by the county tax collector. Added names of forms. Added requirements when transferring between governmental agencies. If government vessel is transferred to a private individual and the vessel was not titled by the government agency, the new owner applies for an Original Title, and the registration will be transferred.