

1.2 Hull Serial Number (HIN)

1.2.1 General

As stated by the Regulations:

HULL SERIAL NUMBERS

900. (1) This Part applies in respect of a vessel that is constructed, manufactured, rebuilt or imported in order to be sold or operated in Canada.

(2) Section 902 applies in respect of all vessels in Canada.

(3) This Part, except section 902, does not apply in respect of

- a. a vessel that is registered in another country as having the right to fly the flag of that country;
- b. a vessel that is registered under the Act, other than a vessel registered in the small vessel register;
- c. a vessel that is not licensed or registered under the Act and that is principally maintained and operated in another country;
- d. a tug; or
- e. a floating object that is less than 2 m (meter) in length and that is not designed to be propelled by an engine.

(4) Section 903 does not apply in respect of a vessel, other than a pleasure craft, whose date of construction, manufacture, rebuilding or importation is on or before the day on which these Regulations come into force or within one year after that day.

901. A person who operates or permits another person to operate a vessel shall ensure that the vessel is marked with a hull serial number in accordance with the requirements of this Part.

903. (1) The builder, manufacturer, rebuilder or importer of a vessel shall obtain a manufacturer's identification code from the Minister.

(2) The builder, manufacturer or rebuilder of a vessel shall permanently mark a hull serial number on the hull of the vessel before its first sale to a reseller or an end user.

(3) The importer of a vessel shall ensure that a hull serial number is permanently marked on the hull of the vessel before its first sale to a reseller or an end user.

...

(13) The builder, manufacturer or rebuilder of a vessel shall not use the same hull serial number on more than one vessel.

Information Note:

The applicability of section 1 of this Standard is set out in Part 9 of the *Small Vessel Regulations*. Subject to certain exceptions, section 1 of this Standard applies to pleasure craft and non-pleasure craft whether designed to be propelled by a motor or not.

The Hull Serial Number (HIN (Hull Identification Number)) provides a uniform method for identifying:

1. any specific vessel;
2. the construction standards that apply to that specific vessel;
3. vessels subject to a manufacturer's defect recall; and
4. a lost or stolen vessel.

1.2.2 Hull Serial Number (HIN (Hull Identification Number)) Format

1.2.2.1 General

As stated by the Regulations:

903. (9) The hull serial number shall be in the format set out in the construction standards and be located where it is clearly visible when the vessel is in the water, namely,

- a. on the upper starboard quarter of the outside surface of the transom;
or
- b. if the vessel has no transom, on the uppermost starboard side at the aft end of the hull.

1.2.2.1.1 The Hull Serial Number (HIN (Hull Identification Number)) consists of 12 consecutive characters displayed as capital letters of the alphabet or Arabic numerals with no spaces, slashes (obliques), or hyphens between them. The code comprises:

1. a three-digit Manufacturer's Identification Code (MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code)); followed by
2. a five-character Manufacturer's Serial Number; and
3. four figures giving the date of manufacture.

1.2.2.1.2 The characters of the HIN (Hull Identification Number) are not less than 6 mm (millimeter) (1/4 in (inch)) in height and width.

1.2.2.2 Manufacturer's Identification Code (MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code))

1.2.2.2.1 The MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) consists of three characters displayed as block capitals or numbers, forming the first three characters of the HIN (Hull Identification Number), as issued by Transport Canada, Marine Safety.

Information Note:

If you are a new manufacturer or importer based in Canada (and if the product is not from the United States), you must first apply to obtain a Manufacturer Identification Code (MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code)) from Transport Canada, Marine Safety.

A MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) issued by the United States Coast Guard to U.S. (United States of America) manufacturers is recognized in Canada by reciprocal agreement.

See appendix 1 for more information.

1.2.2.3 Manufacturer's Serial Number

1.2.2.3.1 The fourth through eighth characters of the HIN (Hull Identification Number) are the individual Manufacturer's Serial Number, which is defined by the manufacturer.

1.2.2.3.2 The Manufacturer's Serial Number consists of capital letters of the alphabet or Arabic numerals, or both, except that the letters "I," "O," and "Q" shall not be used.

1.2.2.4 Date of Manufacture

1.2.2.4.1 The ninth through twelfth characters of the HIN (Hull Identification Number) indicate the date of manufacture. The ninth character is a capital letter of the alphabet indicating the month during which the vessel's fabrication was started:

A = January, B = February, C = March, D = April, E = May, F = June, G = July
H = August, I = September, J = October, K = November, L = December

1.2.2.4.2 The tenth is an Arabic numeral designating the last digit of the year of manufacture.

1.2.2.4.3 Characters eleven and twelve are Arabic numerals marking the model year of the vessel.

Table 1-1. EXAMPLE OF A TWELVE-DIGIT HULL SERIAL NUMBER (HIN (Hull Identification Number))

ABC2AB41G091

Manufacturer's Identification Code	Manufacturer's Serial Number	Commencement of Construction	Model Year
ABC	2AB41	G0	91

1.2.2.4.4 Table 1-1 is a typical example of a complete twelve-digit HIN (Hull Identification Number) for a vessel where fabrication commenced in July 1990 for the 1991 model year.

1.2.2.5 Country Code

Information Note:

The country code is an optional addition to the HIN (Hull Identification Number).

Canadian manufacturers and builders of vessels have the option of adding the Canadian Country Code prefix "CA-" [block capitals and hyphen] in front of the HIN (Hull Identification Number). A typical example of a fifteen-character HIN (Hull Identification Number), including the Country Code, is CA-ABC2AB41G091.

An importer may import a vessel that is marked with a MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) assigned by a country other than Canada or the United States provided that:

- a. When requesting a MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) from the Minister as required by section 903(1) of the Regulations the importer advise the Minister of its intention to use the MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) assigned by another country and provide that MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) to the Minister.
- b. The combination of the country code and the MIC (Manufacturer's Identification Code) is not already used by another manufacturer, builder or importer.
- c. The HIN (Hull Identification Number) is marked in the format and in the two locations required by the Regulations.
- d. The country code is added to the HIN (Hull Identification Number) as required by the Regulations.

As stated by the Regulations:

903. (6) If a vessel is imported from a country with which Canada does not have an agreement regarding the sharing of information respecting a manufacturer's identification code, the importer shall ensure that the country's alpha-2 code published by the Maintenance Agency for ISO (International Standards Organization standard) 3166 is added to the hull serial number.