



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

## **SMALL VESSEL REPORTING SYSTEM (SVRS)**

Pursuant to 19 CFR 4.2, operators of small pleasure vessels, arriving in the United States from a foreign port or place to include any vessel which has visited a hovering vessel or received merchandise outside the territorial sea, are required to report their arrival to CBP immediately (see 19 U.S.C. 1433).

The master of the vessel reports their arrival at the nearest Customs facility or such other place as the Secretary may prescribe by regulations. These reports are tracked in the Pleasure Boat Reporting System. Pursuant to 8 CFR 235.1, an application to lawfully enter the United States must be made in person to a CBP officer at a U.S. port-of-entry when the port is open for inspection.

As part of U.S. Customs & Border Protection comprehensive effort to improve security at our nation's borders while enhancing legitimate travel, including private boaters, CBP implemented the Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS). SVRS is a voluntary effort that will allow eligible, frequent pleasure boat operators and passengers, who are U.S. citizens, nationals or lawful permanent residents; Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who are nationals of a Visa Waiver Program country, to register themselves and their vessel with CBP. SVRS offers facilitated customs and immigration clearance for recreational low-risk boaters at time of arrival. This program will satisfy the boat operator's legal requirement to report to a port-of-entry for face-to-face inspection in accordance with 8 CFR 235.1, but boaters must still phone in their arrival to satisfy 19 USC 1433.

Visit <https://svrs.cbp.dhs.gov> to obtain a list of registration location in your area or contact your local CBP Office for more information

### **Failure to Report**

Failure to report can result in civil penalties as defined in Title 19, United States Code, Section 1436 to include a penalty of \$5,000 for the first violation and \$10,000 for each subsequent violation with the conveyance subject to seizure and forfeiture. In addition to being liable for a civil penalty, and master who intentionally commits a violation under subsection (a) of the above stated section, upon conviction, is liable for a fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment for one year, or both.

**Safe Boating!**