



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Date:

Dear Participant,

Thank you for voluntarily participating in the Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS).

Your Boater Registration Number is BR _____.

Please click the link below to confirm your e-mail address and to setup your password.

[SVRS Password Setup](#)

Optionally you can copy the link below and paste it into your browser window.

<https://svrs.cbp.dhs.gov/Application/SetInitialApplicantPassword.aspx?id=sampleid>

We would like to provide some information about Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requirements for pleasure boaters and SVRS participants.

The master of a pleasure boat arriving from foreign is required to contact CBP via telephone immediately upon arrival (pursuant to 19 CFR 4.2 and 8 CFR 235.1) and make an oral declaration for themselves and all passengers on the boat concerning any goods purchased or acquired while abroad (19 CFR 148.11 and 148.12). The master is also required to report in-person at the nearest port-of-entry (POE) within 24 hours to submit the necessary documentation to verify identity and lawful immigration status (pursuant to 8 USC 1321 and 1323). For more detailed information about the CBP requirements for pleasure boaters, please visit our website at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/pleasure_boats/boats/svrs.xml.

SVRS will allow you as a participant, *under certain circumstances*, to telephonically report the arrival of your vessel, make customs declarations, and submit any necessary additional information and may be cleared without a face-to-face inspection. Please note that the immigration status and citizenship must be valid and participants must possess appropriate valid immigration and identity documents at all times.

Any passengers who are onboard an arriving vessel and have not previously elected to participate in the SVRS program, will be required to report to the appropriate POE for a face-to-face inspection. Although the participating master will not be required to report with the non-participant, the master is legally responsible for ensuring the non-participants present themselves to CBP for a face-to-face inspection.

When making an entry into the United States, the master must contact CBP immediately upon arrival; provide their Boater Registration number and identifying biographical information. Based on the information provided, CBP will verify that the master and occupants of the vessel



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are SVRS participants and determine whether the master's telephonic arrival notification satisfies the inspection requirements or whether further inspection is necessary. CBP reserves the right to board and inspect any small pleasure vessel and its occupants arriving from any foreign port or place and will conduct random inspections of SVRS participants.

Reporting Requirements for Pleasure Boat Operators

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.

If the vessel is U.S. flagged or is a foreign-flag vessel does not qualify for a cruising license, and is 30 feet or longer in length, the owner must obtain a user fee decal, which is available for \$27.50. More information on how to obtain a user fee decal is available at: www.cbp.gov under the tab labeled "Travel"

If a foreign flagged vessel will be sailing to a number of ports during a stay in the United States, it may be eligible for a cruising license. This license exempts pleasure boats of certain countries from having to undergo formal entry and clearance procedures at all but the first port of entry. If your vessel is eligible, please request the cruising license at your first port of entry.

There are certain entry requirements of which boaters should be particularly aware. One is the requirement to obtain approval from ATF - in advance – for the entry of all firearms onboard the vessel. If you do not have the approved ATF Form 6 for firearms, CBP will detain them.

Another requirement is to declare currency and negotiable monetary instruments, if you have more than \$10,000 onboard. Failure to do so could result in the seizure of the money.

Finally, CBP now strictly enforces the requirement to declare all foodstuffs onboard, in particular, fresh fruits and vegetables and meat products. While many items may be admissible, it is essential that they be declared so that a CBP officer can inspect them to make sure they are free of disease and/or pests. Failure to declare could result in a \$1,000 fine.

CBP will make every attempt to accommodate large regatta groups arriving from foreign with multiple vessels. Please contact the nearest CBP Port of Entry in advance to request on site clearance.



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Phone in arrivals:

Masters, crew, and passengers must report their arrival immediately to CBP upon entering the United States.

Upon completion of phoning in their arrival, boaters may be directed to the nearest port of entry to present themselves and any passengers for a face-to-face interview within 24 hours.

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.

These revised private boating procedures enhance CBP's ability to carry out the twin goals of preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons from entering the United States, while at the same time facilitating legitimate travel and trade.

For general questions regarding any CBP issues please contact 1-877-CBP-5511 or visit our website, CBP.GOV

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE BOATING SEASON!