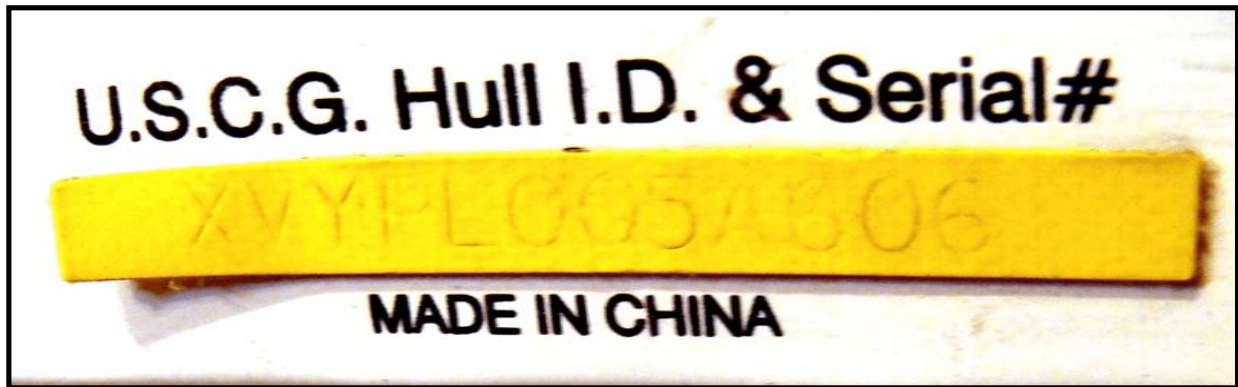


## BOAT HULL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

The U.S. Coast Guard Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety, Product Assurance Branch (CG-BSX-23) assigns Manufacturer's Identification Code (MIC) for recreational boat builders in the U.S. The MIC are the first three digits in the Hull Identification Number (HIN). Not all inflatable boats are required to have a HIN, especially 30 plus years ago. After 1972 boats manufactured on a government contract had a 13 number NSN (National Stock Number). HINs in general were not required until 1984. The current HIN format (Model Year) became mandatory for most recreational boats on 08/01/1984. Between those two dates, there were two HIN formats: Straight Year and Model Year.

Every boat built in the U.S. after 1984 must be identified by a unique 12-digit Hull Identification Number. The HIN characters identify five things: builder, hull serial number,



month of manufacture, year of manufacture, and model year.  
Using XYVPL005A606 as an example.

**XYV** – The U.S. Coast Guard assigns each boat builder a 3-letter identification code. Information on this code can be found on the U.S. Coast Guard boating safety site:  
[http://www.uscgboating.org/recalls/mic\\_database.htm](http://www.uscgboating.org/recalls/mic_database.htm)

**PL005** – The 5 digit hull serial numbers are next. This series of numbers and letters, assigned by the manufacturer, must be unique to the boat. Many manufacturers use the length of the vessel as part of these numbers.

**A** – This is the month the hull was manufactured. Each of the 12 months is represented by a letter starting with A. In the example, "A" means this boat was manufactured in January. "L" would be a boat made in December.

**6** – Year of certification or manufacture.

**06** – Designates the model year. In this case the boat is from the company's 2006 model year.

Since the combination of hull identification number is never reused, it provides a means to uniquely identify a particular boat. The number can be traced to the roll of fabric, fabric manufacturer and the producer of the fabric components. The HIN also has an important safety purpose, enabling manufacturers and owners to clearly identify boats that are involved in a defect notification and possible recall campaign.

**From Anita West RPR Industries (Rubber Crafters & Rubber Fabricators):**

We made lots of boats for the military. The ID was usually located on the right side of the raft near the motor mount or transom. The ID would include the National Stock Number (NSN) on the first line, the type of boat on the second line, manufacturer and then contract number. Then the date of manufacture on the bottom line. Normally, an ID was in the form of a silk screened patch that was attached right onto the tube, no USCG labels at all.

**From Denis Pieri (Retired Quality Assurance Inspector, B.F. Goodrich):**

As near as I can remember, the ID information was stenciled on the upper tube on the outside. The Gov't Drawing Number, Manufacturer, Date of Mfg. (exp: 3Q76 for 3rd Quarter 1976, Serial Number. What was put on non military rafts I don't know as I was not heavily involved with them. The military ordered many different inflatable's. CRRC (Combat Rubber Raiding Crafts) used by Naval Seals, 15 Man Assault Boats as well as the Mark VI's 25 Man Rafts on all large Naval Ships.

**From Ross Perry (retired Rubber fabricator's and Defense Department Inspector)**

It was different for boats and outboard powered rafts, but the U.S. Coast Guard did not oversee military inflatables until 1974. Some had applied patches with the federal Stock Number starting in 1940, contract number, type, s/n, and manufacturer with addresses. A number of boats were manufactured without any markings, called sterile and were bound for covert use in foreign waters. Typically they were sunk or destroyed and not returned to the mother ship.

The top photo {manufactured in 1952} had the Purchase Order Number {PO NO} and the bottom photo {manufactured in 1988} had the NSN, but did not have the hull code identification number.

