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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SUBMERSIBLE VESSEL REGISTRATION GUIDANCE

Privately owned submersibles for recreational purposes should be registered as “boats” in the United States of America. The following references are accurate as of October 2024. Please note that as federal laws are changed and/or annotated specific paragraph numbering may change.

United States Federal Law

46 US Code 2101 (34)(a)

Recreational Vessel means a vessel being manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure

46 US Code 2101 (49)

Submersible vessel means a vessel that is capable of operating below the surface of the water.

United States Coast Guard Rules & Regulations

USCG NVIC 05-93 Chapter 1, B(4) – Recreational Submersibles.

Recreational vessels, as defined in 46 U.S.C. 2101(25), are vessels manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure, or leased, rented, or chartered to another for the latter's pleasure. Submersibles within this category are subject to the requirements of 33 CFR Subchapter S - Boating Safety, Parts 173-183.

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