

FWC Division of Law Enforcement Interim Policy Memorandum IPM 19-03

DATE: August 12, 2019

TO: All Sworn, Division of Law Enforcement

FROM: Colonel Curtis Brown,
Director of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Boating Safety Decal Issuance and Reporting

This Interim Policy Memorandum IPM 19-03 – *Boating Safety Decal Issuance and Reporting* establishes policy for when a Boating Safety Decal shall be issued as well as the method in which the issuance of decals is reported for tracking purposes.

To address various division legislative needs as well as annual ordering of replacement decals it is necessary to track the issuance of decals issued by uniformed division personnel. Previous tracking mechanisms have proven to be ineffective and cumbersome for field personnel to accurately track issued decals. It is the intent of the Division to streamline the reporting process using tools currently available to division staff. This IPM shall remain in effect until these policies and procedures are rescinded, incorporated in an existing General Order, or promulgated in a new General Order.

1 Policy

A The Division shall comply with subsection 327.70(2)(a)1 F.S. which requires the issuance of FWC boating safety inspection decals, “Upon demonstrated compliance with the safety equipment carriage and use requirements of this chapter during a safety inspection initiated by a law enforcement officer, the operator of a vessel shall be issued a safety inspection decal signifying that the vessel is deemed to have met the safety equipment carriage and use requirements of this chapter at the time and location of such inspection.”

B Definitions

- (1) Boating Safety Inspection** – An inspection of the boating safety equipment carriage and use requirements required by subsection 327.50(1)(a) F.S.
- (2) Boating Safety Inspection Decal** – A circular decal between 3 and 6 inches in diameter. Each decal will display an annual expiration date and shall change color each year. The graphic design of each decal shall be determined by the appropriate Boating and Waterways staff.

2 Responsibilities

- A** Members are responsible for issuing decals in accordance with this IPM, and in conjunction with ss. 327.70(2)(a)1 F.S..
- B** Members are responsible for documenting the issuance of vessel inspection decals using the electronic Boating and Resource Warning form.

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3 Procedures

A Issuance of Boating Safety Inspection Decals

- (1) Annual Boating Safety Inspection Decals shall be distributed through requests made to the Fleet and Technical Services Section.
 - (a) Each request for decals shall be approved by the appropriate Regional Commander or designee.
- (2) When a vessel has demonstrated compliance with **all** safety equipment carriage and use requirements during a boating safety inspection, **a decal shall be issued** to the operator of said vessel.
- (3) The member issuing the decal shall document the boating safety inspection on the electronic Boating and Resource Warning form by checking the "In compliance/decal Issued" box.
 - (a) The "In compliance/decal issued" box **must** be checked. This is how the issuance of decals will be tracked electronically allowing the division to eliminate the need to report issued decals on form FWCDLE_191 by field personnel.
- (4) The identifying vessel and operator information, time, date, and location shall be documented on the electronic Boating and Resource Warning form.
- (5) The electronic Boating and Resource Warning form shall be printed and given to the vessel operator along with the decal.