

# CA, NV, & UT Legal Requirements for Recreational Boats

## (non-Paddlecraft)

Boat Length	<16'	16' to <26'	26' to <40'	40 to <65'	Notes
State Registration on board	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Must be on board vessel
Numbering on hull	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3" block letters - Contrast to hull Except documented boats
Certificate of documentation aboard		Yes	Yes	Yes	Name and hailing port on boat, 4" numbers etched into hull, original documentation certificate on board (documented boats only)
Life Jackets	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	One for each person. Type IV throwable for boats over 16'. (Nevada requires a line be attached to the Type IV PFD for boats 26' and over.)
Flares (VDS)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	For <16' flash light is ok (in coastal waters)
Fire extinguishers	1BI	1BII	2BI or 1BII	3BI or 1BI and 1BII	B is for flammable liquids, 1 is 2 lbs, 2 is 10lbs
Ventilation (blower for 1980 or later)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Gas engines only
Horn, whistle, bell	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Horn + bell for <65'
Backfire flame arrester	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Inboard gas engines only - Must be clean
Navigational lights	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Red & green plus 360 / white all around light (if installed they must work)
Oil Pollution Placard	No	No	Yes	Yes	Where to discharge oil
MARPOL (garbage placard)	No	No	Yes	Yes	Where to discharge trash
Marine Sanitation device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Must be possible to prevent discharge overboard
Navigation rules aboard	No	No	No	Yes	
Operable radio	Not required, but if aboard, it must be operable. Required in foreign ports				
Navigational charts	Not required, but used to determine anchoring depth				