Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection United States Coast Guard



Marine Safety Office Chicago

555 Plainfield Rd Suite A Willowbrook, Il 60527-7956

Phone: 630-986-2155

Fax: 630-986-2120

# SMALL PASSENGER AND CHARTER VESSEL QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

**Small Passenger Vessel**

* Coast Guard Inspected and certificated. Issued a Certificate of Inspection (COI)
* Vessel is less than 100 gross tons
* Carries more than six passengers, including at least one for or passenger for hire
* Bareboat chartered vessels carrying more than 12 passengers must be CG inspected
* Chartered vessels with the crew provided by the owner carrying more than six passengers must be Coast Guard inspected
* Inspected under subchapters “T” and “K” of Title 46 Code of Federal Regulation
* Operated by licensed Master of appropriate route and tonnage

# Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV)

* Carries up to six passengers for hire, not including the Master and paid crew
* Sometimes referred to as a “six-pack” operation
* Must be operated by a licensed Master
* Vessel is not routinely inspected and certified by the Coast Guard, but must meet requirements of 46CFR Subchapter “C”
* Includes chartered, rented, or leased vessels with the crew provided by the owner that carry six passengers or less

# Charter Vessel (Crew Provided)

* Considered by the Coast Guard to be equivalent to an Uninspected Passenger Vessel

# Bareboat Charter Vessel

* Vessel is chartered, leased, rented to an individual through a written agreement
* The owner does not provide the crew; the charterer selects and pays the crew
* A licensed Master is not required to operate the vessel
* The owner can recommend a list of Masters for the charterer to hire, but cannot stipulate that the owner make a selection solely from the list provided
* The owner can require the charterer to hire a crew with a preset level of qualifications (e.g. Coast Guard issued Merchant Mariner’s Credentials)
* All food, fuel, and stores are provided by the charterer
* All port charges and pilotage fees, if any, are paid by the charterer
* Insurance is obtained by the charterer, at least to the extent of covering liability not included in the owner’s insurance
* The charterer may discharge for cause, the Master or any crew member
* The vessel must be surveyed upon its delivery and return
* The charterer stands in the shoes of the owner of the vessel. The charterer has complete command, control, and possession of the vessel as it were his or her own.
* The charterer assumes responsibility for the vessel operations within the maritime laws and regulations for the duration of the charter
* Any provision that tends to show retention of control of the vessel such as the owner being aboard during the charter of the vessel contradicts the claim that a valid bareboat charter exists

Enclosure (2)