



Reporting Requirements for Private Boats Entering the United States and Canada

What Do I Need to Know?

**Mariners Coalition
Port Huron, Michigan**


www.marinerscoalition.com

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What documents do I need to enter the United States?

As of June 1, 2009

You will need one of the following documents to prove citizenship:

- Passport
 - U.S. Passport Card
 - NEXUS Card
 - FAST Card (issued to commercial truck drivers)
 - Enhanced Drivers License
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- The U.S. Passport Card, NEXUS/FAST Cards and Enhanced Drivers License will be accepted in place of a passport at land and sea border crossings.
- Only the NEXUS Card can be used for dual purposes:
 - Proof of citizenship
 - Allows boaters the ability to call in their arrival up to 4-hours in advance without physical inspection by Customs and Border Protection.

Who must report?

- Every person must report his or her arrival or intention to arrive in the United States.
- When calling in, the Customs and Border Protection Officer will inform the master of the vessel whether a face-to-face inspection is required.

When is reporting required?

“Arrival” of the vessel means the time when a vessel first comes to dock in U.S. waters.

- After having had physical contact with a foreign vessel entering U.S. waters from foreign waters.
- When a vessel returns after having touched foreign soil (i.e. landed in Canada).

Do I need to report if I am merely anchoring in foreign waters?

- If you are merely anchoring you would not be required to report your arrival to U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) unless you had physical contact with another vessel or person in Canadian waters.
- If you went ashore by any means, for any reason you will need to report your arrival with CBP when returning to the United States.

19CFR4.2 and 19CFR4.94 set out the instances when a vessel makes arrival. Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) arrival requirements do not trigger U.S. arrival requirements.

How do I report?

- Customs & Border Protection (CBP) clearance may be obtained in one of three methods:
 - Phone-in Reporting
 - CBP Video Phone
 - Report in Person

Phone-in Reporting

- All passengers must be in possession of a pre-approved form I-68 or a NEXUS/FAST card and call one of the following numbers to report your arrival.
 - Northern Michigan: 906-632-2631
 - North of Alpena and Upper Peninsula
 - Port Huron Area: 810-985-9972
 - Eastern shore of Michigan from Metro Beach to Alpena
 - Detroit Area: 313-393-3793 or 313-393-3949
 - Eastern shore of Michigan from Metro Beach to Lake Erie
- Only the master of the vessel or his/her designee may go ashore only for the purpose of reporting their arrival.
- NO other persons may leave the boat, or board the boat and no baggage may be removed or loaded until the report of the arrival is made and release is granted by CBP.

Pleasure Vessel Areas of Responsibility for Ports within the Detroit Field Office



Reporting by Phone Before Landing

If all persons on board are in possession of a NEXUS card, a vessel may phone CBP up to four hours before arrival.

The master may be asked for the following information:

- His or her BR number and those of all passengers on board
- CBP User Fee Decal number (if vessel is over 30 ft)
- Port of arrival and last foreign port of call
- Citizenship of all persons on board
- Quantities of certain foods and articles on board
- Other pertinent CBP questions

Reporting by Phone before landing (Continued)

The master will be informed whether it will be necessary for the vessel to actually stop at an approved inspection location (page 12) or whether it may proceed to its intended destination.

If it may proceed, a clearance number will be given.

CBP Videophone Inspection Station Sites

- Michigan: Mackinac Island (currently not operational)
 - Put in Bay (Bass Island), Ohio
 - Cedar Point Marina, Ohio
 - Brands Marina, Sandusky, Ohio
 - Lagoons Marina, Huron, Ohio
 - Chagrin Yacht Club, Eastlake, Ohio
 - Grand River Marina, Grand River, Ohio
 - Ashtabula Public Dock, Ashtabula, Ohio
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- If utilizing the videophone, all passengers and crew must report to the videophone for inspection with identity and citizenship documents ready for presentation. Be prepared to write down an eighteen digit receipt number which must be provided to Border Patrol Agents or other Law Enforcement Officers when requested.

Reporting In Person

The locations listed below are marine ports of entry at which you may be required to present yourself in-person:

- Desmond Marine in Black River, Port Huron
- Lexington State Harbor
- Algonac Harbor Club

Call 810-985-9972 and a CBP Officer will provide further instructions regarding reporting and entry processing.

What information do I need when reporting?

- Name, Date of Birth and Citizenship of master and all passengers (with supporting documents)
- Name of Boat and/or Documentation/Registration Number
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection User Fee Decal Number (if 30 ft or longer)
- Home Port and Current Location
- Details of visit
- Boater Registration (BR) number (if already issued)

What is a Boater Registration (BR) Number?

- The Boater Registration Number (BR number) is unique to your vessel/master and should be kept for subsequent visits into the United States. In the case of the master the number is attached to both the vessel and the person. Passengers can also get BR numbers that are only attached to their name. If the number is lost, it can be retrieved by a CBP Officer.
- You will receive a BR number when you are issued a NEXUS card. If you do not already have a NEXUS card or BR number, you will be issued a BR number upon your first arrival. You will be asked a series of questions pertaining to the master of the vessel, passengers and vessel information. You will be issued a BR number that you can give each time you make entry with CBP. The BR number allows CBP to speed up the process.

What is a User Fee Decal and do I need one?

- Private Vessel Decals are required for vessels 30 feet or more in length and the cost is \$27.50 (U.S.) per calendar year. The purpose for the decal is to help pay inspection processing.
- Decals are required upon first arrival of the calendar year into the United States. Per 19CFR.24.22, vessels only require a decal upon entering the United States from foreign waters.
- Simply crossing the international line does not require a decal. You must have entered Canada and qualify for Customs and Border Protection reporting requirements when returning to the United States.
- The User Fee will NOT be pro-rated for purchases made mid-year.
- The User Fee year begins January 1st and ends December 31st. Therefore, all User Fees expire January 1st and are eligible for renewal.
- Can be purchased at WWW.CBP.GOV.

What if I call and there is no answer?

- CBP has alleviated this issue with the designated boater's line 810-985-9972, but if it still occurs, dial one of the other public numbers to Port Huron, Marine City or Algonac.
- 810-985-9541, 42, 30,79 Port Huron
- 810-794-3321 Algonac
- 810-765-5454 Marine City

What are Alternative Inspection Systems?

- An alternative to the in-person reporting requirement is the Canadian Border Boat Landing (I-68) Program, which allows certain applicants entering the United States by small boat to telephonically report their arrival to CBP.
- All boaters should obtain Form I-68 or a NEXUS card. However, boaters who choose not to obtain Form I-68 or a NEXUS Card will be required to report in-person for inspection by a CBP Officer at a port of entry each time they enter the United States. U.S. citizen boaters who enter the United States with aliens who are without Form I-68 and fail to report for inspection may be subject to fines and/or seizure of the boat. Persons traveling by boat who do not have Form I-68 and who have not presented themselves for inspection are subject to arrest, fines, or if a Non-US Citizen, removal from the United States.

Alternative Inspection Systems (Continued)

- Persons who are not U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States may use Form I-68 for visits not to exceed 72 hours to visit within 25 miles of the shoreline along the U.S. border with Canada. If a visit is to exceed 72 hours or 25 miles of the shoreline, re-reporting to CBP is required.
- The Form I-68, after an initial inspection, permits a boater to report their arrival into the United States telephonically without having to appear at a reporting location for an in-person inspection. The initial inspection involves an interview, law enforcement database checks, completion of the form I-68, and payment of the fee.

What is an I-68? How do I get one?

- Under the I-68 program applicants for admission or readmission into the United States by small pleasure boats are pre-registered and issued a single boating permit for a 12 month period. The I-68 allows boaters to enter the U.S. from Canada for recreational purposes and with only the need to report to CBP by telephone.
- You may still be required to report to a CBP port of entry upon CBP request.
- With an I-68 form you are still required to carry proof of citizenship.

I-68 (Continued)

- To enroll in the program each applicant 14 years of age and older must appear in person for an interview. Proof of identity, proof of citizenship and three passport sized photos are required at the interview.
- Children less than 14 years of age must be listed on one or both of the parents I-68.
- Fees are \$16 U.S. dollars for individuals or a total of \$32 for a family.

What is a NEXUS card and am I eligible?

- Affords prescreened, low-risk travelers expedited processing by U.S. and Canadian border officials.
- Can be used as proof of citizenship for both the land border and for small boat arrivals.
- Valid for five years and expires on the person's birthday of the fifth year.
- Citizens and permanent residents from both Canada and U.S. are eligible for NEXUS.

NEXUS card (Continued)

- Applicants must be approved by both Canada and U.S. and present proof of status.
- Applications may be made by internet via <https://goes-app.cbp.dhs.gov>.
- Application fee is \$50 (non-refundable) U.S. or Canadian currency for applicants 18 years or older (no fee for minors age 17 and under)

NEXUS card (Continued)

- NEXUS card holders are still subject to reporting to a designated CBP marine port of entry upon request.

Are there benefits to having a NEXUS card?

- NEXUS card holders may report their intended arrival by telephone up to four hours in advance whereas non-card holders must report immediately upon entry.
- The NEXUS card is an approved WHTI (Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative) document that is accepted at the land and sea border in place of a passport.

Do I need an I-68 and NEXUS card?

- You do not need both a NEXUS card and an I-68. The NEXUS card is an enhanced replacement for the I-68.
- With enhanced drivers licenses, passports, and passport cards it is still recommended that you obtain either a NEXUS card or an I-68 to help expedite your processing.

What is CBP's authority to examine me?

- Title 19, Section 1582 of the U.S. Code authorizes U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers and Agriculture Officers to search, inspect, examine all persons, luggage and merchandise entering the United States from a foreign country.
- Title 19, Section 1581 of the U.S. Code authorizes U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers at any time to go on board of any vessel or vehicle at any place in the United States or within the customs waters or, as he may be authorized, within a customs-enforcement area established under the Anti-Smuggling Act, or at any authorized place, without as well as within his district,

What is CBP's authority to examine me (Continued)

and examine the manifest and other documents and papers and examine, inspect, and search the vessel or vehicle and every part thereof and any person, trunk, package, or cargo on board, and to this end may hail and stop such vessel or vehicle, and use all necessary force to compel compliance.

What can I expect during an examination by CBP?

- Physical inspection of citizenship documents.
- Verification of Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) compliant documents of all passengers on board.
- Physical inspection of the vessel to determine if Customs duties or taxes are owed, if there is undeclared merchandise, commercial merchandise or if you have prohibited or restricted items.
- Professionalism

What if I am not treated professionally by officers?

- Any time a person feels they have been treated in an unprofessional manner he or she is encouraged to contact a Supervisor to make a formal complaint. It is helpful to have the officer's name, date and time the action occurred. Professional behavior is expected at all times by all employees. You may contact Supervision at 810-985-9541 ext. 103, 131 or 231.

What if I fail to report my arrival to CBP?

- Failure to Report Conveyance Arrival (19 USC 1436) can result in a civil monetary penalty of \$5000 for a first time violator.
- Each subsequent violation could result in a \$10,000 monetary penalty.
- Conveyance subject to seizure and forfeiture.
- In addition to a civil penalty, any master who intentionally commits a violation, upon conviction may be liable for fine of not more than \$2000 or imprisonment for one year or both.

Entering Canada

Reporting Requirements for Private Boaters Entering Canada



Who is required to report?

- All non-resident visitors arriving in Canada by private vessel.

Entry into Canada includes:

- Anchoring in Canadian waters
 - Entering tributary waters of Canada
 - Mooring to another boat in Canadian waters
 - Disembarking passengers onto Canadian land
- Canadians arriving back to Canada from a foreign port; this includes landing in a United States port or entering tributary waters of the United States.



Entering Canada as a NEXUS Participant

- The master of the boat must call the NEXUS Reporting Center (TRC) at 1-866-996-3987 at least thirty (30) minutes and up to four (4) hours before entering Canada. All passengers must possess a NEXUS card for this to apply.
- The Boat Master must provide the following information:
 - Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA)
 - Name and location of the designated arrival site
 - Registration number and name of boat
 - Full name, date of birth and citizenship of all NEXUS members on board
 - Declaration of all goods, firearms and weapons being imported



Entering Canada as a NEXUS Participant (Continued)

- As proof of presentation, record your report number so it can be given to border officials when asked to do so.
- If a border official is not at the specified landing site to meet the boat at the reported ETA or actual time of arrival, the individuals who have reported may proceed to their intended final destination.



Entering Canada as a Non-NEXUS Participant

- Upon arrival the master of the vessel must report at a designated landing site by telephone to 1-888-226-7277



- The boat master must provide the following information for all persons on board:

Entering Canada as a Non-NEXUS Participant (Continued)

- Vessel registration number
- Name and date of birth
- Proof of citizenship
- Designated landing point
- Length of absence from Canada (residents)
- Purpose and duration of trip (visitors)
- Declaration of all goods
- Declaration of currency or monetary instruments greater or equal to \$10,000, firearms or weapons



Entering Canada as a Non-NEXUS Participant (Continued)

- The master will be given a report number which must be recorded and retained in event a CBSA Officer requires proof of reporting.
- The CBSA Officer may require that all persons remain on board for a personal inspection of the vessel.



What if my question has not been answered?

- You can either call CBP at the Blue Water Bridge at 810-985-9541 or visit our web site at www.cbp.gov.
- For information on Canada call 1-888-CANPASS (226-7277) or visit the web at www.cbsa.gc.ca

