

FOR-HIRE VESSEL PROGRAM FAQ

Q: Who is required to submit proof of For-Hire Insurance?

A: Any person owning, controlling, operating, or managing a for-hire vessel for the transportation of persons for compensation in this state.

Q: What is the process to get your For-Hire Insurance Verification Certificate?

A: The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) requires you complete a full application including forms DPR 857A, DPR 857B, DPR 857C and an ACORD or Declaration page for each vessel used as for-hire. You can find all documents under the FORMS section of this page.

Q: What are the required fees?

A: The current cost to apply and receive your For-Hire Insurance Verification Certificate is \$25. (per business not per vessel).

Q: Where do I send my application and payment for the For-Hire Vessel Carrier application?

A: The department will accept check or money order payable to:

Department of Parks and Recreation
Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Division
Attn: For-Hire Insurance Verification Certificate Program
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 942896-0001

Q: How long is my For-Hire Insurance verification certificate good for?

A: One Year; unless your insurance policy term expires. The certificate is good from January 1st- December 31st of that year. (If you apply in August the permit will still expire on December 31st).

Q: What is the process to renew my For-Hire Insurance Verification Certificate?

A: Each year you will complete a “Renewal application” which can be found online. Submit all documents along with a \$25.00 check/money order to the Department of Parks and Recreation at:

Department of Parks and Recreation
Law Enforcement and Emergency Services Division
Attn: For-Hire Insurance Verification Certificate Program
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 942896-0001

Q: What if I cannot provide proof of certificate to law enforcement?

A: The base fine is \$480.00 but with fees and penalties is could cost more depending upon what county you are in.

Q: Where can I find the law that requires for-hire vessel companies to have the For-Hire Insurance Verification Certificate?

A: You can find the law under the General Order defined in section 4661 of the Public Utilities Code.
<http://dbw.parks.ca.gov/pages/28702/files/PUC%204660-4672.pdf>

Q: When was the For-Hire Insurance Verification Program transferred to the Division of Boating and Waterways?

A: The change was enacted by Senate Bill No. 19 and was approved by Governor Brown on October 2, 2017.

Q: What if my insurance policy expired in March but I have applied for my yearly certificate in December?

A: You must resubmit your insurance documents, including a new copy of form DPR 857C and the new Insurance policy ACORD or Declaration page to the division a month before your insurance is canceled in order to keep your Insurance Verification Certificate valid.

Q: Why do you need my USCG information/ For-Hire license information?

A: To verify that you are able to legally operate as a for-hire vessel operator.

Q: Why do you need an ACORD page and the DPR 857C form?

A: The ACORD page is the issued document from the insurance company that we can validate through the Department of Insurance and the DPR 857C form gives us the passenger seating capacity, and types of services offered which are critical to validating insurance.

Q: What if I chose to have a surety bond instead of liability insurance?

A: Please provide proof of the surety bond so that the Department of Parks and Recreation may validate its validity.

Q: What if I decide to provide a different mean of liability coverage?

A: When the protection is provided by an approved alternate plan or a plan of self-insurance, or includes such an approved plan or plans of self-insurance with other methods, approval of the Department of Parks and Recreation is required. Such approval shall be requested by a formal application in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure setting forth all the facts, which shall be required by the Commission with respect thereto.

No operation shall be conducted within the State of California unless a policy or certificate of insurance, certificate of self-insurance coverage, bond, or the other securities or approved alternate plans hereinabove specified, shall be in effect and on file with the Commission.