



**Homeland  
Security**

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary**  
**District 11 Northern Region**  
*Serving Northern California, Nevada, Utah*



**To All Vessel Examiners:**

**There is apparently still some confusion about the requirement of the California CO decal when performing a Vessel Safety Check. Enclosed is the text of a letter dated February 4, 2005 I received from Department of Boating and Waterways Public Affairs Officer June Iljana spelling out the law from the Harbor and Navigation Code. Please review the text and the note at the end of the letter. You will note that the CO decal is NOT a requirement for a Vessel Safety Check decal. Until there might be a change, this is the official policy.**

**If there is any question that you cannot answer, please don't hesitate to forward the question to me.**

**Thank you,  
Mike Lauro DSO-VE**

February 4, 2005

Michael J. Lauro DSO-VE  
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary  
710 Live Oak Way  
Lodi, Ca. 95242

Dear Mr. Lauro,

“The law requires that:

- 1) A dealer place the stickers on the vessel when a new or used motorized vessel is sold in California.
- 2) DMV provide stickers when the vessel is sold and registered to the new owner.
- 3) DMV notify the new owner that they are required to affix the stickers.

**Unfortunately, there is nothing in the law to prevent people from taking off the decals.”**(The bold is mine). Below are the provisions from the Harbor and Navigation Code.

Harbors & Navigation Code

683. (a) When a new or used motorized vessel is sold in California, the two carbon monoxide poisoning warning stickers developed by the Department of Boating and Waterways shall be placed on the motorized vessel. The smaller sticker shall be placed in the interior of the motorized vessel where it is immediately visible to the person operating the motorized vessel the larger sticker shall be placed facing out on the exterior of the stern or transom of the motorized vessel, unless the motorized vessel is inflatable and the sticker would not adhere to the surface of the stern.

(b) For a motorized vessel sold by a dealer, the dealer shall ensure that both warning stickers have been affixed prior to the completion of the transaction.

(c) For a motorized vessel sold by an individual, both stickers shall be included by the Department of Motor Vehicles in the new registration material provided to the new owner, and the new owner of the motorized vessel shall be notified that he or she is required to affix the smaller sticker in the interior of the motorized vessel where it is immediately visible to the operator of the motorized vessel and the larger sticker facing out on the exterior of the stern or transom of the motorized vessel, unless the motorized

vessel is inflatable and the sticker would not adhere to the surface of the stern.

(d) A warning sticker already developed by the boating manufacturer may satisfy the requirements of this section if it has been approved in advance by the Department of Boating and Waterways.

(e) This section shall become operative on May 1, 2005.

684. (a) The Department of Motor Vehicles shall insert the Department of Boating and Waterways' informational brochure and warning stickers about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and boats into the registration renewal materials mailed by the Department of Motor Vehicles to vessel owners for two consecutive two-year registration cycles and, thereafter, upon the recommendation of the Director of Boating and Waterways. These materials shall instruct vessel owners to place the two stickers in the motorized vessel so that the smaller sticker is visible to the person operating the motorized vessel and the larger sticker is facing out on the exterior of the stern or transom of the motorized vessel, unless the motorized vessel is inflatable and the sticker would not adhere to the surface of the stern.

(b) This section shall become operative on May 1, 2005.

Further, the law did not make any provision for documented vessels, so people who already own a documented vessel will not receive the decals through the DMV. However, our intent is to have the decals on the vessels so any assistance you can provide would be appreciated and would prevent CO poisonings.

**“After thoroughly reviewing the provisions of the Boating Safety Law with regard to the carbon monoxide stickers, we determined that the law does not require the decal to be in place, so it will not be part of the vessel safety check.”** (The bold is mine)

I hope this clears up any confusion. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

June Iljana  
Public Information Officer  
Department of Boating and Waterways  
2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA. 95815