

Vessel Identification System or *VIS* means a system for collecting information on vessels and vessel ownership as required by 46 U.S.C. 12501.

§ 187.9 What is a vessel identifier and how is one assigned?

(a) The vessel identifier for a vessel having a valid HIN is the HIN.

(b) If a vessel does not have a valid HIN, a vessel identifier is assigned under the following table:

TABLE 187.9(b)—VESSEL IDENTIFIER ASSIGNMENTS

If the vessel is:	And does not have a valid HIN:	Then the vessel identifier is:
(1) Documented	The official number assigned by the Coast Guard under 46 CFR part 67.
(2) Documented	And is transferred to a new owner	The HIN assigned by the Coast Guard.
(3) Undocumented	And must be numbered under 33 CFR parts 173 and 174.	The number issued on a certificate of number by the issuing authority of the State of principal operation, provided the number will not be used in the future to identify a different vessel.
(4) Undocumented	And is transferred to a new owner	The HIN assigned by the issuing authority of the State of principal operation.
(5) Undocumented	And the vessel is required to be numbered or titled in a new State of principal operation.	The HIN assigned by the issuing authority of the State of principal operation.

§ 187.11 What are the procedures to participate in VIS?

(a) A State must submit a written request to the Commandant (G-OPB) certifying that it will comply with the VIS participation requirements in subpart C of this part.

(b) The Commandant will review the request and determine if the State is complying with the VIS participation requirements. If so, the Commandant will certify compliance by listing the State in Appendix A to this part.

(c) Appendix A to this part will list those States certified by the Commandant to participate in VIS. When the Commandant determines that a State is not complying with the participation requirements, it will lose its certification and will be deleted from Appendix A to this part.

§ 187.13 What are the procedures for obtaining certification of compliance with guidelines for State vessel titling systems?

(a) A State must submit a written request to the Commandant (G-OPB). The request must include a copy of the State's titling laws, regulations and administrative procedures, and certify that the State will comply with the VIS participation requirements in subpart C of this part.

(b) The Commandant will review the request and determine if the State is complying with the Guidelines for State Vessel Titling Systems in subpart D of this part. If the State is complying with the guidelines, the Commandant will certify compliance and list the State in Appendix B to this part.

(c) Appendix B to this part will list States certified by the Commandant. When the Commandant determines that a State is not complying with the vessel titling guidelines, it will lose its certification and be deleted from Appendix B to this part.

§ 187.15 When is a mortgage a preferred mortgage?

A mortgage, instrument, or agreement granting a security interest perfected under State law covering the whole of a vessel titled under the law of a participating State is a preferred mortgage if the State is certified under § 187.13.

Subpart B—Information to be Collected by Participating States

§ 187.101 What information must be collected to identify a vessel owner?

(a) A participating State must collect the following information for a vessel it has numbered or titled when