

ANDAMAN MARINE SURVEYORS

YACHT SURVEYS | ASIA PACIFIC

How to Decode the Watercraft Identification Number (WIN) & Builder's Plate

Understanding your yacht's identity, construction details and certification.

Every recreational craft has a unique identity, much like a vehicle's chassis number. The Watercraft Identification Number (WIN) and Builder's Plate provide essential information about a vessel's origin, age, design limitations and regulatory compliance.

1 Watercraft Identification Number (WIN)

The watercraft Identification Number (WIN), formerly known as the Hull Identification Number (HIN) in European regulations, is a unique 14-character identification code assigned to recreational craft under the EU Recreational Craft Directive (RCD).

Example WIN: GB-ABC12345G526

GB	ABC	12345	G	5	26
Country code of manufacturer (e.g. GB = United Kingdom)	Manufacturer's Identification Code (MIC)	Unique hull serial number	Month of manufacture (July)	Final digit of year of manufacture (2025)	Model year (2026)

Months are represented by letters A-L (January-December).
The WIN is normally permanently marked on the starboard side of the transom, with a second identification marking concealed within the vessel.



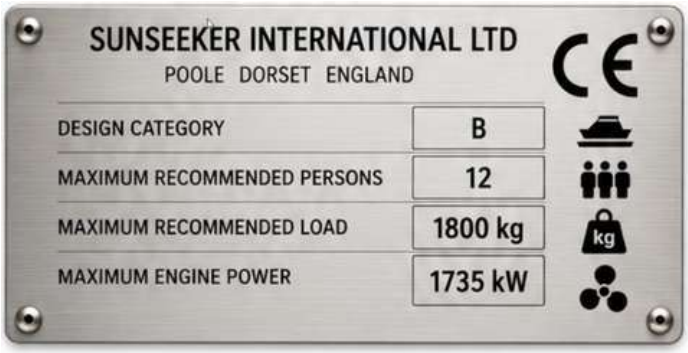
WIN on transom (external marking)



Secondary WIN (concealed location)

2 Builder's Plate

The Builder's Plate provides important information concerning a yacht's design limits and safe operation. Under the EU Recreational Craft Directive, the plate typically identifies the manufacturer, CE marking, design category, maximum recommended persons, maximum recommended load and maximum engine power.



Builder's plate Informaton

Manufacturer
Name or identification of the boatbuilder.

CE Marking
Indicates declared conformity with applicable EU requirements.

Design Category
The environmental conditions for which the vessel was designed (A, B, C or D).

Maximum Recommended Persons
Number of persons permitted under the manufacturer's design assessment.

Maximum Recommended Load
Maximum load specified by the manufacturer, expressed in kilograms (includes persons, gear and other onboard items).

Maximum Engine Power
Maximum engine power specified by the manufacturer, expressed in kilowatts (kW). This may be a single engine or combined total for multiple engines.

3 Recreational Craft Design Categories

These categories describe the conditions a craft is designed to withstand, not a guarantee of safe operation in all circumstances.

A Ocean



Winds exceeding Beaufort Force 8 and significant wave heights exceeding 4 m, excluding abnormal conditions.

B Offshore



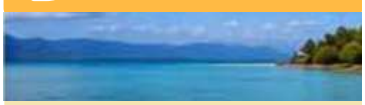
Winds up to Force 8 and significant wave heights up to 4 m.

C Inshore



Winds up to Force 6 and significant wave heights up to 2 m.

D Sheltered Waters



Winds up to Force 4 and significant wave heights up to 0.3 m. with occasional waves up to 0.5 m.

HPiVS Authorised Inspector

Andaman Marine Surveyors (AMS) is an Authorised CE Inspector with **HPi Verification Services (HPiVS)**, providing specialist expertise in recreational craft certification and compliance assessment.

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