

So... you want to visit Canada by private boat and re-enter the U.S., eh?

Customs and Border Protection Requirements

Boaters in the Detroit area must call (313) 226-3810 upon arrival in the U.S. If your vessel is over 30' in length, you must have a current Customs User Fee Decal, and the decal number will be required when you call in. You will be queried about how long your stay was in Canada, how many people are aboard, their citizenships, what you are bringing into the U.S. You will be asked the marina you have landed at, and your state registration number. You will be asked if you have I-68s for all passengers. You will be given a log number for reference. If the goods you are importing require payment of duty, you will be instructed how to pay that amount.

Option 1 (I-68 holder): You have a valid I-68 (revision date of January 31, 2002). Every family member, if applicable, is listed on the form. Any guests on board have their own Form I-68. Having appeared, in person, to apply for the revised Form I-68 program, being fingerprinted and supplying three passport size (1"x1") photos satisfies the CBP immigration inspection requirement.

Option 2 (non I-68 holder): You must appear before a CBP inspector upon arrival at a designated Port-Of-Entry for immigration inspection. You will be instructed to report to the CBP office at either the Ambassador Bridge or the Detroit/Windsor Tunnel, which are open 24 hours a day. Any boater not participating in the I-68 Program will have to undergo this process each time they return from Canada.

Note:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Customs Service are now combined in one agency- the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, which in turn is part of the Department of Homeland Security

Note:

If the national Threat Level is raised above Yellow, applications for the I-68 program are suspended. Boaters with valid I-68s will still be able to return from Canada.

What you need (I-68):

The initial inspection involves an interview, checking the individual in the Interagency Border Inspection System (IBIS) and possibly other law enforcement databases, processing 3 photographs, imprinting a single fingerprint on each copy of the form, and payment of the fee. You will need proof of U.S. citizenship that clearly establishes identity and nationality such as a birth record or baptismal record for each person. All family members must appear in person, and those 14 and older must have their own photograph (children under 14 will be included on the parents' forms, and need no photograph).

What is the cost of the Form I-68?

The fee for an individual Form I-68 is \$16.00. There is a family cap of \$32.00, but each member of the family who is 14 years of age or older must obtain a separate Form I-68. Children under 14 years of age will be entered on their parent's form. For fee purposes, a family is defined as husband, wife, unmarried children under 21 years of age, and parents of either the husband or wife. Fees may be paid by personal checks, cashiers checks, certified checks or money orders made payable to the DHS (Department of Homeland Security).

Canadian Boat-Landing Permit (I-68) Information:

The Canadian Boat Landing Permit was reinstated with additional security enhancements on April 9, 2002. Only the current Form I-68 (revised January 31, 2002) will be accepted. To obtain general information on the I-68, please call (313) 446-3499, or one of the Ports of Entry listed below. You must apply in-person for an I-68 at one of the following offices:

Ambassador Bridge
3033 Porter Street
Detroit, Michigan 48216
Phone number: (313) 226-3141
Hours of Operation: 24 hours

Detroit Tunnel
150 East Jefferson
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone number: (313) 568-6019
Hours of Operation: 24 hours

What you need (User Fee Decal- over 30' only):

The information needed for the decal is the boat manufacturer, model, year, vessel name, hull id number and state registration number (or USCG Documentation number). The decal, which costs \$25 can be obtained online at www.customs.ustreas.gov/travel/travel.htm or by obtaining a Annual User Fee Decal Request Form (CF-339): (a) from a local U.S. Customs port, (b) by calling Decal Inquiries at (317) 298-1200, ext. 1245.

This information was compiled as a service to Detroit-area boaters by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary from information supplied by the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, and is accurate as of June 27, 2003. To verify current program requirements, call one of the numbers listed above.