

Proposed Amendments Modernize Small Vessel Licensing Regulations

A pleasure craft license (PCL) is a document issued by TC which contains a unique license number which helps to identify vessels and pleasure craft license holders and allows police and search and rescue personnel to access information in an emergency and supports accountability and compliance with safety and environmental regulations.



The Regulations Now:

PCLs issued before 2010 have no expiration date while PCLs issued after 2010 are valid for 10 years. A PCL is mandatory for all pleasure craft equipped with an engine of 10hp or more. This includes personal watercraft. Note that the program issues over 100,000 licenses a year.

Currently PCL holders are required to notify of a name or address change within 90 days.

The Minister has no authority to cancel a PCL when the holder fails to update or transfer the license into their name or fails to renew upon expiry or the PCL holder wishes to remove their pleasure craft from the database.

Currently there is no fee for any type of PCL transaction. The PCL program costs TC \$2 million per annum to run.

Changes Proposed:

Include all vessels that are over 6 metres in length whether they have an engine or not and so will now capture sail-alone vessels. This would not apply to human powered vessels like dragon boats.

Bring lifetime and 10-year licenses into a new 5-year validity regime. This would occur over 6 years. TC has already begun sending reminder notices for renewals either by email or post.

PCL holders will be required to notify TC of a name or address change within **30** days. **Buyers** of a vessel will be required to notify TC of a transfer or sale of a vessel and obtain a new PCL within **30** days.

Give the Minister the authority to cancel a PCL for non-compliance and to provide greater ease to PCL holders to cancel their licenses as needed.

TC wants to charge a \$15 service fee for: acquiring a new PCL; renewing a PCL; transferring an existing PCL and for issuing a duplicate. No fee would be applied to cancel a PCL or to update a name or address. The goal is to process fully completed applications within 5 business days.

Why:

To build a more comprehensive and current and accurate data base for emergency situations, law enforcement and identifying owners of wrecked and abandoned vessels.

The fees are designed to recover part of the costs associated with providing PCL services.

When:

This, like any regulation change, must go through the Canada Gazette I Publication (feedback stage) estimated in Fall 2021 and Canada Gazette II (notification of impending changes). The changes are expected to be in place by the fall of 2022.

Note:

You must have your boat license with you in the boat. You must also display the number on both sides of the bow. The number must appear in block characters which are at least 3 inches high in a colour that contrasts with the colour of the bow. Fine for non-compliance is \$250.