

Third Party Awareness

U.S. Coast Guard sends this bulletin at 10/21/2024 3:00 PM EDT

The U.S. Coast Guard's National Vessel Documentation Center (NVDC), located in Falling Waters, West Virginia, is the **ONLY** entity authorized to issue Certificates of Documentation (CODs), Form CG-1270, valid for a period of one to five years from date of issuance depending on vessel type. This document is required for vessels engaged in Commercial trade and is optional for vessels five net tons and over engaged in Recreational use/activities.

Persons interested in conducting business directly with NVDC should visit the official Coast Guard website at: <http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/>

The NVDC is aware that there are commercial third-party entities that offer to manage the certification/renewal process on behalf of vessel owners for a **FEE**. The Coast Guard does not endorse any of these companies, and the companies do not operate on behalf of the Coast Guard or US Government in any way. Any fees charged or agreements offered by such companies are in no way associated with the NVDC certification process. In addition, these companies are not authorized to issue any form of documentation, including travel letters and/or permits that authorize operation of ANY vessel. Customer complaints can be filed through the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website at <https://www.ftc.gov/>.

To obtain official forms, visit the USCG NVDC website([National Vessel Documentation Center \(uscg.mil\)](http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/)) or contact NVDC at (800) 799-8362 or (304) 271-2400. Phone hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; phones are not manned on Thursdays. Application packages and documents are preferred via eStorefront ([eStorefront \(uscg.mil\)](http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/)) but eligible form filing (in .pdf format) can be e-mailed to nvdc.pdf.filing@uscg.mil. NVDC fee schedule can be viewed at ([National Vessel Documentation Center \(uscg.mil\)](http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/)) for verification.

The following products may be ordered online: Renewals (Form CG-1280), Late Renewals (Form CG-1280), Abstract of Title (Form CG-7043) and Certified Copy of COD (Form CG-7043) requests. Preferred eStorefront as mentioned above with link.

Users are encouraged to register to receive notices and updates via e-mail by utilizing NVDC's email subscription service ([U.S. Coast Guard \(govdelivery.com\)](http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/)). Please report any issues to the NVDC Webmaster.