



## Compliance Information Sheet

# Marking name and number on inshore commercial vessels

The Ministry of Fisheries Field Operations group has developed an operating model that emphasises the concept of “informed and assisted” compliance to support the principles of enforcement. In practical terms this means that, where possible, the Ministry of Fisheries will bring to the attention of industry matters that are of direct interest and concern to the Ministry.

Recently the Navy has been conducting patrols in conjunction with the Ministry of Fisheries.

It was found that a significant number of fishing vessels were difficult to identify due to incorrect or poorly maintained marking of registration numbers and names of registered fishing vessels.

This information sheet has been produced to address this area of non-compliance and to advise commercial fishers about the regulations on the marking of commercial fishing vessels.

Full details of the commercial fishing regulations can be found on the website [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz)

### Vessel name

An operator of a vessel must ensure that within 7 days after the registration of the vessel or before the vessel is used for fishing, whichever is the earlier, the name of the vessel is marked in contrasting colours on both sides of the hull with clear and legible letters and figures, as appropriate, that are not less than:

- 250 mm in height, and
- 125 mm across, and
- 25 mm stroke width, and
- 50 mm from any other letter or figure.

### Registration numbers

An operator of a vessel that is less than 28 m in overall length must ensure that within 7 days after the registration of the vessel or before the vessel is used for fishing, whichever is the earlier:

- the vessel is marked with figures showing the registration number of the vessel, and

- those figures are painted on both sides of the forward plane of the hull in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Commercial Fishing Regulations.

If a vessel ceases to be registered, the operator must, within 7 days of its registration ceasing, remove the registration number from the vessel.

### Schedule 4 – Provisions relating to marking of New Zealand fishing vessels and foreign-owned New Zealand fishing vessels

1. Lettering – Block lettering and figures must be used.
2. Height – The height of the letters and figures must be in proportion to the size of the vessel.
3. Marks – The height of letters and figures placed on the hull, superstructure, or inclined surfaces must be as specified in the following table.

Overall length of vessels (m)	Minimum height letters/numbers (m)
28 or over	1.0
20 or over but less than 28	0.8
15 or over but less than 20	0.6
12 or over but less than 15	0.4
5 or over but less than 12	0.3
Less than 5	0.1

### Colour of letters and figures

The figures of the registration number and, if required, the letters and figures of the international call sign must be painted on the vessel in white on a black background or in black on a white background, whichever produces the greater contrast with the colour of the hull.

## Maintenance of letters and figures

An operator, notified user, or master of a vessel must ensure that, while the vessel is registered:

- the letters and figures of the name, registration number, and any international call sign are not removed, obscured, or obliterated from the vessel
- the appropriate letters and figures are maintained in accordance with fisheries regulations.

## Alternative position for marking of vessels

It is sufficient compliance with the regulations if the operator of a vessel described below ensures that the letters and figures are marked and maintained on both sides of the hull or superstructure of the vessel as near as practicable to the required position, size and manner, and are approved in writing by a fishery officer.

The vessels covered are:

- a vessel used for squid or any other type of fishing

on which any letters or figures required are likely to be quickly obscured or obliterated; or

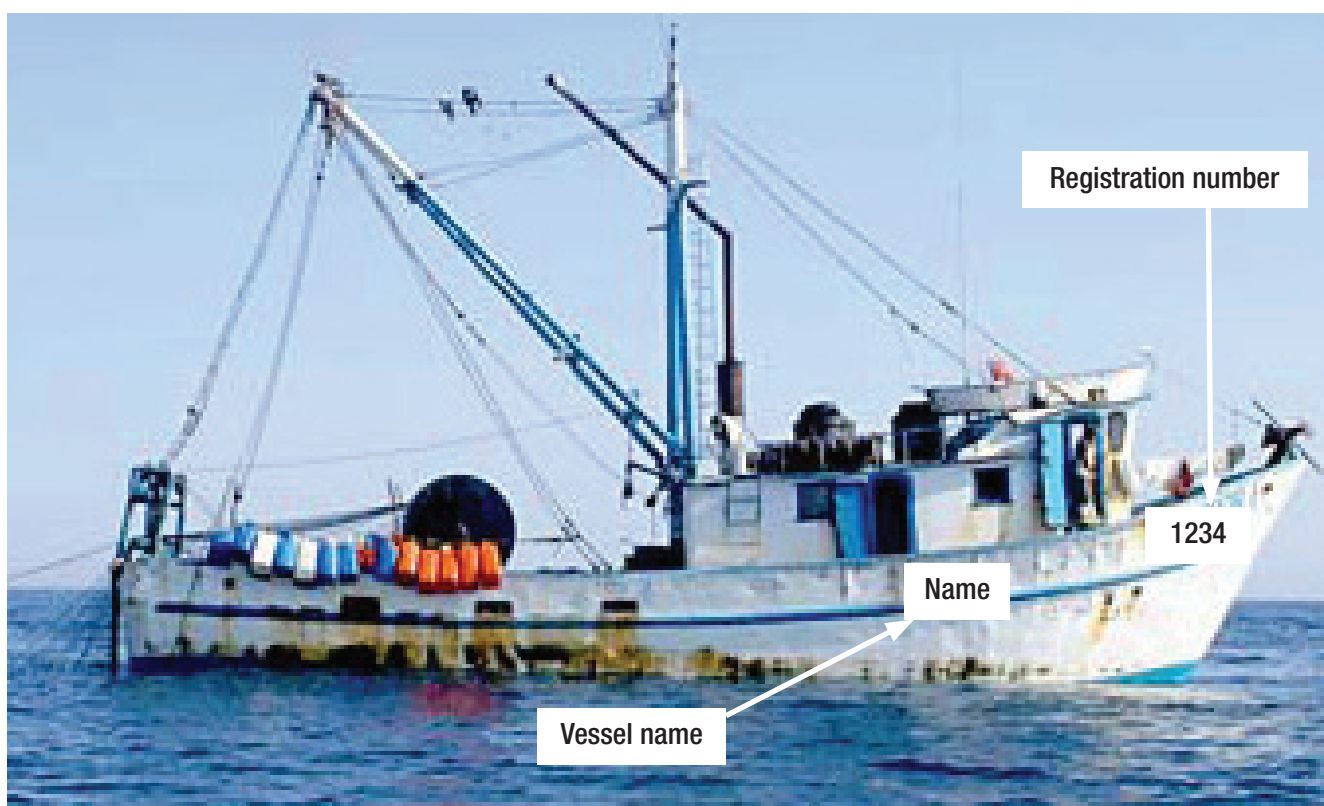
- a vessel with a hull shaped so that any letters or figures required by regulations are likely to be obscured or obliterated.

## Marking of tenders

For regulations surrounding the marking of tenders please contact your nearest Ministry of Fisheries Office. Failing to have your vessel correctly marked may result in lost fishing days or prosecution.



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### Disclaimer

Nothing in this information sheet should be read to preclude obligations for all current requirements. The purpose of this information sheet is to achieve informed and assisted compliance.