



Marking Requirements for Commercial Vessels, Tenders and Fishing Gear

This fact sheet has been produced to advise commercial fishers about the regulations on the marking of commercial fishing vessels, including tenders, and some types of fishing gear. Full details of the commercial fishing regulations can be found on the website www.legislation.govt.nz

1. Registered fishing vessels

Vessel name

An operator of a vessel must ensure that 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 number/international call sign

Vessels less than 28m in overall length must be marked with the vessel's registration number; foreign-owned vessels and those over 28m must be marked with the vessel's international call sign.

The registration number must be painted on both sides of the forward plane of the hull while call sign must be painted on both sides of the hull immediately below the gunwale (see photo). All markings must be in accordance with the Commercial Fishing Regulations and be done within 7 days after the registration of the vessel or before the vessel is used for fishing, whichever is the earlier.

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

Requirements for marking of New Zealand fishing vessels and foreign-owned New Zealand fishing vessels (from Schedule 4 of Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001)

- 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 or 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.

Disclaimer

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



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 MPI 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.

2. Tenders

A tender is defined in the Fisheries Act 1996 as any vessel that:

- a) is carried by or attached to a fishing vessel and used or intended to be used for taking fish, aquatic life, or seaweed for sale in conjunction with the fishing vessel; and
- b) is not longer than the greater of:
 - (i) 6 metres; or
 - (ii) 50 percent of the overall length of the fishing vessel it is carried by or attached to.

Tenders must be marked on both sides of the hull in accordance with Schedule 4 with the registered vessel's registration number preceded by the letter "T" with a hyphen ("T-"). Where a registered vessel operates more than one tender, an additional number must be added to denote the number of the tender e.g. "T1-" , "T2-" etc.

Tenders must not be marked simultaneously i) as the tender of more than one registered vessel or ii) as a tender and a registered vessel. Tenders must not display tender markings if the vessel they are used in support of is no longer registered.

3. Fishing gear

Marking requirements apply to surface floats that are used in conjunction with longlines, set nets, fyke nets, pots (including holding pots), and other static fishing gear. Where such fishing gear is transported on or deployed from a vessel, surface floats must be clearly, permanently, and legibly marked with the registration number of the vessel.

Where such gear is used by commercial fishers other than in conjunction with a fishing vessel, surface floats must be clearly, permanently, and legibly marked with the permit number of the commercial fisher using the gear.

Additionally, each pot (including holding pots) must be clearly, permanently, and legibly marked with either the registration number of the vessel or, if used other than in conjunction with a vessel, the permit number of the commercial fisher using the pot.

Failing to have your vessel, tender, or fishing gear correctly marked may result in lost fishing days or prosecution.

If you require further information or clarification around the content of this fact sheet please contact your local MPI Office.