

Obtaining and using your MMSI number with your VHF DSC radio and GPS unit.

Unfortunately, many DSC radios in use are not connected to GPS, do not have an MMSI number assigned and have not yet been properly registered.

If you rely on a DSC radio to transmit a Digital Distress Alert ensure that the device is registered. The U.S. Coast Guard may not receive correct position or vessel information if the radio does not have an MMSI number properly programmed into the radio. Once the MMSI number is entered into the radio's memory it cannot be removed. If the ownership of a VHF DSC radio is changed, a new MMSI number must be obtained and entered in the radios memory to reflect the new MMSI owner information. Incorrect information transmitted with a distress alert may delay rescue efforts as vessel information and GPS coordinates may not be accurate.



DSC radios can help rescue boaters in distress.



www.uscgboating.org

This pamphlet was prepared in partnership with the U. S. Coast Guard.

Thank you for obtaining and using your MMSI number with your VHF DSC radio and GPS!



National Boating Federation
www.n-b-f.org

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Digital
Selective
Calling

'DSC today's SOS'



Obtain your
Maritime Mobile
Service Identity
(MMSI)
Number
For use with
DSC Radios

Bridging the technology
gap
in Boating Safety!

Using VHF radios with *Digital Selective Calling: DSC*

Get Aboard! The U.S. Coast Guard's new Rescue 21 system will automatically receive your distress call including vessel & owner information, your position in Latitude & Longitude and respond to your alert when you follow these **5 important steps**:

STEP #1:

Make sure that your new VHF radio is DSC capable.



Step #2:

Connect your GPS receiver to the VHF/DSC radio. If you have difficulty, get help from a qualified technician.

Step #3:

Register your DSC radio at one of these websites and receive your MMSI number. Registration is free!

www.boatus.com/mmsi

www.seatow.com/boating_safety/mmsi.asp

www.usps4mmsi.com

Or call the FCC at
1-877-480-3201

Step #4:

Enter your MMSI number into your VHF/DSC radio.



Step #5:

Check the DSC operation by making a routine priority test call to another DSC radio. That radio will display your MMSI number. If your radio has a "Test Call" feature you can call the U.S. Coast Guard Rescue 21 system using the 003669999 MMSI and get an automatic response acknowledgement.



Enjoy smooth sailing with a registered DSC radio.