

PATON (Private Aids to Navigation)

Definitions:

- PATON is any marine aid to navigation installed and maintained by anyone other than the U.S. Coast Guard. (i.e.: Federal, State, county, city, town government agency, private individual or company.)

Note: Federally installed and maintained marine Aids to Navigation (ATON) are the responsibility of the U.S. Coast Guard.

- A Marine Aid to Navigation is anything that is intended to assist boater with the safe navigation of a waterway.

PATON is managed by the U.S. Coast Guard via an application for permit process. Permission to install Private Aids to Navigation can be obtained by submitting a Private Aids to Navigation application (CG-2554) to the local U.S. Coast Guard District Commander.

The following are other agencies in their order of precedence that would be involved in permitting the placement of PATON:

1. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE)
2. State Department of
 - a. Washington Department of Natural Resources
 - b. Idaho Lands and Waterways
 - c. Oregon Marine Board
 - d. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
3. County
 - a. Shore Management
4. City/Town
 - a. Shore Management
5. U.S. Coast Guard

Permission must be obtained from at the least the ACOE and the State in which a PATON is to be placed BEFORE the U.S. Coast Guard will grant permission for the placement of said PATON.

The U.S. Coast Guards involvement in the PATON process is more of a safety matter. The ACOE and State will approve the placement of a structure/object/hazard. The U.S. Coast Guards is the approving authority for the placement of PATON intended to mark a structure/object/hazard and ensure the safety of the boating public.

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Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations – Part 62:

- This section covers the standardized marking system used within the United States for marking the waterways within the United States. (i.e.: “Red Right Returning!”)
 - Red (lateral)
 - Green (lateral)
 - Yellow (non-lateral)
 - Orange and White (non-lateral/informational – regulatory)

Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations – Part 66:

- This section covers the U.S. Coast Guard, Private Aids to Navigation application (CG-2554) for permit process.

Note: Bridge marking standards are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations under a different section. For guidance on how to properly mark a bridge contact the local U.S. Coast Guard District Commander.

To place a PATON within the 13th Coast Guard District
(Oregon, Washington, Idaho or Montana)
please complete the following steps:

1. Contact the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.
 - a. Seattle
 - b. Portland
 - c. Walla Walla
2. Contact the appropriate state department.
 - a. Oregon
 - b. Washington
 - c. Idaho
 - d. Montana
3. Contact the appropriate county department.
 - a. Shoreline Management
4. Contact the appropriate city/town department.
 - a. Shoreline Management
5. Contact the “13th Coast Guard District Private Aids to Navigation Manager” at (206) 220-7285 or d13-pf-paton@uscg.mil.

“Boating safety, It’s everyone’s responsibility!”