



Under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, permits are required from the Corps of Engineers for the construction of any structure in, over or under any navigable waters of the United States, the excavating or dredging from or depositing of material in such waters, or any other work affecting the course, location, condition, or capacity of such waters. This includes moorings, floats, piers, dredging, bulkheads, jetties and beach nourishment. See 33 CFR 320-330. General Permit 2 of the February 2015 General Permits for Massachusetts¹ (GPs for MA) expedites authorization of moorings in navigable waters in Massachusetts by building on the Commonwealth's compatible regulations. Work is eligible for authorization under the GP through self-verification or with a preconstruction notification (PCN). A PCN includes a Corps application form, ENG FORM 4345. Work not eligible for authorization under the GPs for MA requires an Individual Permit.

Self-Verification category: Self-Verification Notification Form (SVNF) required but no PCN

An application is not required for new or relocation of moorings that are:

- a. Authorized locally under MGL Chapter 91 Section 10A; and
- b. Single boat and single-point; and
- c. Not associated with a boating facility; and
- d. Not placed in tidal vegetated shallows (e.g., eelgrass) unless low impact mooring technology is used; and
- e. Not located within a Corps Federal Channel or its buffer zone.

Preconstruction Notification category: Moorings not eligible for self-verification require the applicant to submit a PCN directly to the Corps and obtain written verification from the Corps before starting work in Corps jurisdiction

1. New or relocation of moorings that are:
 - a. Not authorized locally under MGL Chapter 91 Section 10A; or
 - b. Not single boat and single-point; or
 - c. Associated with a boating facility; or
 - d. Placed in tidal vegetated shallows (e.g., eelgrass) without low impact mooring technology; or
 - e. Located within the buffer zone of a Corps Federal Channel. Moorings in a Corps Federal Channel are not eligible for authorization under this GP.
2. New mooring fields; or expansions, boundary reconfigurations or modifications of existing, authorized mooring fields. Municipal mooring fields may be established in a Corps Federal anchorage but not within a channel.

Additional information:

1. The mooring owner must ensure that their mooring(s) is authorized. An authorization may have come under one of the Massachusetts GPs that were in effect from 1991 to Jan. 20, 2015, the 2015 GPs

for MA, Nationwide Permits prior to 1991, a Massachusetts Letter of Permission, or an Individual Permit.

2. The mooring owner should be able to demonstrate that their mooring(s) is authorized. The mooring owner/permittee should keep in his/her file a copy of the applicable GP document, and when applicable, the written Corps verification.
3. A SVNF is required for moorings that qualify for self-verification. Our receipt of the SVNF will help us and the mooring owner if future questions arise. We will acknowledge receipt of the SVNF in writing.
4. Call the phone numbers below to discuss:
 - a. The permitting status of existing moorings.
 - b. Obtaining the proper authorization if your existing moorings are not authorized.
 - c. Proposed moorings do not qualify for self-verification and therefore require written authorization from our office. We can assist you with submitting the PCN.
5. Maintenance, including replacement, of previously authorized moorings is required in accordance with the terms and conditions of the original authorization and does not require further permitting or an SVNF.
6. Corps authorizations do not need to be renewed annually as long as the Chapter 91 Section 10A approval is reissued to the same person for the same location.

Contact information:

Regulatory Division

(978) 318-8338 or (800) 362-4367

¹ www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx >> State General Permits >> Massachusetts