

## Launch Certification Permit (LCP) FAQ's

**Q1: Who must follow this policy?** All watercraft (motorized boats, pontoons, fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, etc.) must comply before launching into Lake Summerset. The policy applies to every operator, owner, and member.

**Q2: What is a Launch Certification Permit (LCP) and who needs one?** The LCP is a self-certification form for **all watercraft**. You must complete (choose checkbox) sign and date an LCP form prior to launching. If your watercraft does not leave LSA the certificate is valid for the current boating season or until the watercraft leaves LSA, whichever occurs first. A new signed, dated LCP is required upon return.

**Q3: How often do I need a new LCP?**

- Annual re-certification at the start of each boating season or when first registering/renewing.
- Re-certification is required when the watercraft leaves Lake Summerset and returns **or** after any 30-day period outside LSA.

**Q4: What does the LCP actually certify?** You must check one of two boxes:

1. My watercraft **has not** been used outside Lake Summerset in the last 30 days **AND** it has been Cleaned, Drained, and Dried.
2. My watercraft **has** been used outside Lake Summerset but has been Cleaned, Drained, and Dried per Illinois law and LSA policy.

**Q5: What is the “30-day look-back” question on the LCP?** The back of the LCP asks: “Has your watercraft been outside of Lake Summerset in the past 30 days?” Your answer determines whether you need to follow the drying-time table or can launch after completing basic Clean/Drain/Dry requirements.

**Q6: What are the Clean, Drain, Dry requirements?** All visible plants, mud, debris, and water must be removed. Bilges, live wells, motors, and trailers must be fully drained, and the entire watercraft and all equipment (including all compartments) must be completely dry before launching.

**Q7: What is the 5–7 Day Dry-Time Rule?** If your watercraft was used outside Lake Summerset and has **not** been fully Cleaned, Drained, and Dried, watercraft cannot launch until it has remained completely dry for the minimum days shown in the USGS/Illinois DNR table: (**OR** schedule and pass a free inspection to waive dry time rule)

- May–September: 5–7 days
- April / October: 11 days
- March / November: 18–28 days
- Dec–Feb: 28 days (3 days if continually frozen)

**Q8: What if I want to decontaminate my boat faster?** You may use the LSA boat wash station (5-7 day dry time rules still apply) **OR** schedule a free inspection through the gate house. **Once inspected and watercraft has met Clean, Drain, Dry requirements, a new LCP is signed with inspector, the dry-time requirement is waived and watercraft is cleared to launch.**

**Q9: Do I have to go through the Main Gate every time?** Yes. All watercraft must enter only through the manned Main Gate and submit the completed Main Gate Watercraft Entry questionnaire for ongoing data collection.

### Q10: Where do I display the LCP?

- **In the vehicle windshield** when entering LSA and while parked at LSA Marinas.
- **One copy must be in the watercraft** when it is on the water (for Lake Patrol checks).

### Q11: What are the penalties for violations?

- Launching with visible AIS, plants, mud, or standing water (Illinois law & LSA policy violation)
- Launching before completing the required dry time. (can be waived after passing voluntary inspection)
- Launching without a completed Launch Certification Permit (LCP)
- Launching an unregistered watercraft

**Redbook Rule Violations:** Penalties range from **\$50–\$300** (first offense) **\$100-\$600** (second offense) up to **\$1,000 – 2,500** (per IL fine schedule), suspension of water rights, or referral to Illinois DNR (repeat or severe violations). Unregistered watercraft = **\$1,500 fine** + loss of all water rights.

**Q12: Can LSA staff inspect my boat?** Yes. Gate staff, Public Safety, or other LSA staff are authorized to perform visual checks and request inspections. Refusing to stop, answer questions, or allow inspection is itself a violation of LSA rules.

**Q13: What if my watercraft never leaves Lake Summerset, do I still need to fill out the LCP?** Yes. The policy states that the LCP is required for all watercraft before launching (see page 2 of the policy and the front of the LCP form). Even if your boat stays on Lake Summerset year-round and has never been outside LSA, you must still complete and sign the LCP at the start of each boating season. You simply check the first box: “My watercraft hasn’t been used outside Lake Summerset in the last 30 days, AND it has been Cleaned, Drained, and Dried.” Have a copy with you whenever the watercraft is on the water for Lake Patrol checks. **The LCP form remains valid for the entire season as long as the watercraft does not leave LSA.**

**Q14: Does my winter storage provider need to fill out an LCP when delivering my boat in the Spring?** No, the boat was in storage all winter and no AIS would have survived. (see drying time survival table on LCP form). Once boat is delivered, the watercraft owner/operator is required to sign, date (windshield display/carry on watercraft) the LCP prior to launching watercraft.

**Q15: Where can I get the LCP form?** Forms are available online, at the LSA Office, or at the Main Gate.

**Q16: How will members be educated about these rules?** LSA will provide information via the association newspaper, website, signage at launches/docks, “Clean, Drain, Dry” reminders, and resources on identifying/reporting AIS.