



**REPUBLIC OF  
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR**

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-53

Mar/2024

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF  
MERCHANT SHIPS, AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

**SUBJECT: Surveys and Certification for Commercial Yachts, Passenger Yachts, and  
Yachts Engaged in Trade**

- References:**
- (a) [RMI Maritime Act 1990](#)
  - (b) [RMI Maritime Regulations](#) (MI-108)
  - (c) [RMI Yacht Code 2021](#) (MI-103)
  - (d) [RMI Marine Notice 1-005-2](#), *Fees for Official Yacht Documents and Services*
  - (d) [RMI Marine Notice 2-011-43](#), *Registration of Tenders and Issuance of Tender Statements of Compliance*
  - (e) [RMI Marine Notice 5-034-6](#), *Scheduling Requirements and Processes for Yacht Compliance Verifications and Inspections*
  - (f) [RMI Marine Guideline 2-11-15](#), *Organizations Acting on Behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Administrator*
  - (g) [RMI Yacht Technical Circular 14](#), *Private Yacht Voluntary Compliance Levels*

## **PURPOSE**

This Marine Notice (MN) outlines the requirements for conducting surveys and issuing international convention and national certificates by or on behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”).

It supersedes the Jan/2021 version and has been amended throughout to address changes to the RMI yacht inspections program.

## **APPLICABILITY**

This MN applies to the following yachts regardless of size:

- a. commercial yachts,
- b. passenger yachts (PAXYs), and
- c. Yachts Engaged in Trade (YETs).

It also applies to private yachts that have requested voluntary compliance with the RMI Yacht Code 2021 (the “[Yacht Code](#)”).

## DEFINITIONS

This MN uses terminology defined in the RMI [Maritime Regulations](#), and [Yacht Code](#).

## REQUIREMENTS

### 1.0 International Convention Statutory Certificates

#### 1.1 Classed Yachts

- .1 The following yachts must maintain class with a Classification Society:
  - a. Commercial yachts 500 gross tons (GT) or more;
  - b. YETs 500 GT or more; and
  - c. PAXYs, regardless of tonnage.
- .2 International convention statutory certificates must be issued by the yacht's Classification Society, except that the Administrator, another Classification Society, or an Appointed Representative (AR) may carry out and issue the relevant certification for audits, surveys, and inspections for:
  - a. International Safety Management (ISM) Code;
  - b. International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code; and
  - c. Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

#### 1.2 Unclassed Commercial Yachts and YETs of less than 500 GT

Unclassed commercial yachts and YETs less than 500 GT must have their applicable international convention statutory surveys and certification carried out by Class or an AR.

### 2.0 Compliance Verifications and Flag State Inspections

Compliance Verifications and Flag State inspections must be conducted by one of the following individuals acting under the authority of the RMI:

- 2.1 a RMI Yacht Inspector (YI); or
- 2.2 an Appointed Representative (AR). See Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#).

### 3.0 Compliance Verifications (Commercial Yacht, PAXY, and YET)

#### 3.1 Certification

- .1 Registered commercial yachts, PAXYs, and YETs, regardless of GT, must be certified as compliant with the [Yacht Code](#) and carry a valid Compliance Certificate issued by or on behalf of the RMI Maritime Administrator.
- .2 A yacht that has undergone an initial or renewal Compliance Verification and found in to be substantially compliant with the Yacht Code will be issued a short-term compliance certificate.
- .3 A yacht that has fully satisfied the Yacht Code requirements will be issued a full-term certificate with a validity of up to five years, subject to annual endorsements.
- .4 For commercial yachts that have not been issued a SOLAS Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, the Compliance Certificate must be accompanied by MI-289 (Form E), *Yacht Record of Safety Equipment* to confirm the safety equipment onboard.
- .5 Private yachts registered in the RMI may be certified and operated on a voluntary basis to a higher standard than required by the [Maritime Regulations](#) or international conventions. Refer to YTC 14 for the details.
- .6 See MN [5-034-6](#) for further clarification on the compliance verification process, including scheduling.

#### 3.2 Re-Registration

- .1 On the re-registration of a yacht, where the new owner wishes to maintain the same (mandatory or voluntary) compliance, the previously issued Compliance Certificate may be carried forward, provided that the yacht:
  - a. is in good standing with the required compliance level;
  - b. has a valid statutory certificates; and
  - c. Compliance Verification is within the annual window (See MN 5-034-6).
- .2 If a re-registration occurs after the anniversary date and the Compliance Verification has not yet occurred, it must be completed within 30 days, but not later than the end of the annual or renewal window.
- .3 Yachts that are within their renewal window must complete the renewal Compliance Verification before re-registration.
- .4 Any active or outstanding deficiencies from the last Compliance Verification must be closed prior to re-registration.

- .5 Inspections, surveys, and audits relating to the international convention statutory certificates must be carried out as required by the respective conventions.
- .6 Yachts that have been issued a Compliance Certificate but wishing to re-register as a private yacht without maintaining this certificate, may, at the discretion of the Administrator, have a pre-registration inspection waived, provided the international convention statutory certificates and the Compliance Certificate are valid at the time when the re-registration occurs.

#### **4.0 Temporary Change of Registration Status**

- 4.1 Commercial yachts and PAXYs may switch their COR to a private yacht on a temporary basis at the sole discretion of the Administrator. Resubmitting the declaration in [MI-127PY](#) in this case is not necessary.
- 4.2 Where a private yacht COR is issued on a temporary basis, full compliance with the terms of the Compliance Certificate must be maintained. This includes crew levels and crew certification.
- 4.3 Failing to maintain the required compliance, with the temporarily changed registration status, as referenced in §4.2, will result in the Administrator withdrawing the Compliance Certificate.

#### **5.0 Tender Registration and Compliance**

Tenders carried on board any commercial yacht, PAXY, or YET, must be issued a Tender Statement of Compliance (TSC) (MI-289TSC) per MN [2-011-43](#).

#### **6.0 Fees**

Refer to MN [1-005-2](#) for all yacht fees, including those for yacht Compliance Verifications and Inspections.