



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-55

Rev. Mar/2024

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

SUBJECT: Surveys and Certificates for Private Yachts

- References:**
- (a) RMI [Maritime Act 1990](#)
 - (b) RMI [Maritime Regulations](#) (MI-108)
 - (c) RMI [Yacht Code 2021](#) (MI-103)
 - (d) RMI **Marine Notice 2-011-53**, *Surveys and Issuance of International Convention and National Certificates for Commercial Yachts, Passenger Yachts and Yachts Engaged in Trade*
 - (e) RMI **Marine Notice 2-011-54**, *Surveys and Issuance of International Convention and National Certificates for Private Yachts Limited Charter*
 - (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 Rev. Jan/2022. The document has been amended throughout to address the change of the RMI yacht inspections program.

APPLICABILITY

This MN applies to private yachts, regardless of size. It does not apply to private yachts that take part in the RMI’s Private Yacht Limited Charter (PYLC) or Yacht Engaged in Trade (YET) programs.

DEFINITIONS

This MN uses terminology defined in the RMI [Maritime Regulations](#) and the RMI Yacht Code 2021 (the “[Yacht Code](#)”).

REQUIREMENTS

1.0 International Statutory Convention Certificates and Voluntary Statements of Compliance

1.1 Unclassed Private Yachts

All unclassified private yachts must have their applicable international convention statutory surveys and certification carried out by a Classification Society or an Appointed Representative (AR).

1.2 Classed Private Yachts

Classed private yachts must have their international convention statutory certificates issued by the yacht's Classification Society. However, the audits, surveys, and inspections along with issuing the relevant certification may be carried out by the RMI Administrator, another Classification Society, or an Appointed Representative (AR) where the private yacht voluntarily complies with the following:

- .1 International Safety Management (ISM) Code;
- .2 International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code; and
- .3 Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

2.0 Flag State Inspections and Compliance Verifications

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

- .1 a Qualified Individual (QI) for yachts of less than 24 meters in length;
- .2 a RMI Yacht Inspector (YI) for any yacht regardless of length and GT; or
- .3 an Appointed Representative (AR) for any yacht regardless of length or GT.

2.2 RMI-approved QIs, authorized to inspect yachts of less than 24 meters, are listed in *RMI Approved Qualified Individuals* ([MI-103B](#)).

2.3 RMI-approved ARs are listed in Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#).

2.4 Refer to MN [5-034-6](#) for further clarification on the compliance verification process, including scheduling.

3.0 Pre-Registration Inspections for Private Yachts

3.1 The following requirements apply to private yacht pre-registration inspections:

Private Yachts				
Classification Status	Length	Tonnage	Pre-Registration Inspection Requirement	Conditions and Clarifications
Classed and Unclassed	less than 24 meters	regardless of tonnage	not required	The Administrator may require a pre-registration inspection as deemed necessary.
Unclassed	24 meters or more	Less than 400 GT	required before registration	The Administrator may allow inspection after registration on a case-by-case basis. See § 3.2, below, for more detail.
Unclassed	24 meters or more	400 GT or more	required prior to registration	None.
Classed	24 meters or more in length	regardless of tonnage	In lieu of a separate inspection, valid Class and statutory certificates may be accepted by the Administrator.	Where there is no separate inspection required, a current list of firefighting and lifesaving appliances with current service and inspection dates must be submitted for review by the Administrator before registration. Newly constructed yachts may submit an approved safety plan instead.

3.2 Where the Administrator authorizes the pre-registration inspection to be carried out after registration, a Certificate of Registry valid for 30 days will be issued. The inspection must occur within the validity of the Certificate of Registry. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the Certificate of Registry becoming invalid and, consequently, the yacht’s deletion from the RMI Registry.

3.3 Owners of private yachts wishing to voluntarily comply with the provisions of the [Yacht Code](#) may choose from various degrees and levels of voluntary compliance. See [YTC 14](#) for further details. In such cases, the requirements of MN [2-011-53](#), addressing the requirements for commercial yachts, may apply.

4.0 Pre-Registration Inspection for Private Yachts Over 20 Years Old

All private yachts over 20 years old, regardless of size, are required to undergo a pre-registration inspection before registering under the RMI flag.

5.0 Voluntary Compliance Verification for Private Yachts

- 5.1 Private yachts not taking part in the commercial yacht, passenger yacht (PAXY), PYLC, or YET programs may choose to comply voluntarily with the requirements of a commercial yacht, PAXY, or PYLC. If voluntary compliance is chosen, the yacht will be required to undergo initial and annual Compliance Verification requirements as provided in either MN [2-011-53](#) or MN [2-011-54](#).
- 5.2 Owners wishing to voluntarily comply with the provisions of the Yacht Code may have the option to choose from various degrees and levels of voluntary compliance. See [YTC 14](#) for more clarification.
- 5.3 On satisfactory completion of the annual Voluntary Compliance Verification, the Administrator will issue a Statement of Voluntary Compliance which is subject to annual endorsements.

6.0 Re-Registration for Private Yachts

- 6.1 Private yachts that apply for re-registration due to an owner change are subject to the requirements in §1.0 - §4.0 above.
- 6.2 Any yacht carrying a valid Compliance Certificate seeking to re-register as a private yacht may do so without a pre-registration inspection, provided that the applicable International Statutory Convention Certificates and Compliance Certificate are valid at the time when the re-registration occurs.

7.0 Fees and Scheduling of Compliance Verifications

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