



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

**Marine Notice**  
**No. 2-011-42**  
**Rev. Sep/2016**

**TO: ALL OWNERS, MANAGERS, CHARTERERS AND MASTERS OF  
COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATELY REGISTERED YACHTS,  
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND APPOINTED  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**SUBJECT: Surveys and Issuance of International Convention and National Certificates  
for Yachts**

**References:** (a) RMI Yacht Code ([MI-103](#))  
(b) RMI Maritime Act 1990 ([MI-107](#))  
(c) RMI Maritime Regulations ([MI-108](#))

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Notice is to outline the revised requirements for the survey and issuance of international convention and national certificates by or on behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the “Administrator”).

This Notice supersedes Rev. 10/15 and reflects the addition of section 7.5 outlining the Administrator’s policy regarding non-compliant PYLCs.

**APPLICABILITY:**

This Notice applies to all yachts, regardless of size.

**DEFINITIONS:**

“**Appointed Representative (AR)**” means an Administrator appointed agent or representative who conducts statutory surveys of unclassified yachts for the issuance of statutory certificates; initial, annual and renewal surveys and Compliance Verifications; and other services in accordance with written agreement;

“**Classed yacht**” means a yacht that has been issued and maintains a valid Certificate of Classification for hull and machinery by a Classification Society;

“**Classification Society**” or “**Class**” means an organization that establishes and applies technical standards in relation to the design, construction and survey of marine vessels. Only those Classification Societies that have been approved as a Recognized Organization by the Administrator may carry out services under the RMI Yacht Code for an RMI flagged yacht;

“**Compliance Certificate**” means a national certificate that confirms that the yacht meets the applicable requirements of the RMI Yacht Code;

“**Compliance Verification**” means an initial, annual, or renewal inspection, carried out by an AR to verify that the qualifications and certification of the crew and the actual condition of the yacht and the certificates issued to it are in compliance with the requirements of the RMI Yacht Code and any international conventions, as applicable;

“**Commercial Yacht Compliance Certificate (CYCC)**” means a national certificate that confirms that the yacht meets the applicable requirements in the RMI Yacht Code;

“**International Statutory Convention Certificate**” means any certificate that is issued by or on behalf of the Administrator reflecting the requirements of the applicable IMO instruments such as, but not limited to SOLAS, MARPOL, Load Line, and Tonnage conventions;

“**Passenger ship**” means a vessel carrying more than 12 passengers for consideration;

“**Passenger Yacht (PAXY)**” means any passenger ship registered as per Chapter 2 of the RMI Maritime Act that is described on the Certificate of Registry as a passenger yacht and therefore may be engaged in trade, commerce, or chartering carrying more than 12 but no more than 36 passengers under limited operational conditions;

“**Passenger Yacht Compliance Certificate (PAXYCC)**” means a national certificate that confirms that the PAXY meets the applicable requirements in the RMI Yacht Code;

“**Pre-Registration vetting**” means an assessment by the Administrator to determine whether the yacht, yacht managing company and yacht owner meet the requirements for registration into the RMI. The pre-registration verification is not limited only to a survey of the yacht;

“**Pre-Registration inspection**” means an inspection carried out by a Qualified Individual, AR or Classification Society to verify that the condition of the yacht and its equipment meet the requirements of the Administrator and that the yacht is fit for its intended use;

“**Private Yacht Limited Charter (PYLC)**” means a private yacht less than 500GT and 18 meters or more in length registered as per Chapter 2, Part V, of the RMI Maritime Act that is described on the COR as a private yacht and holds a valid Private Yacht Limited Charter Compliance Certificate, allowing the yacht to be engaged in limited chartering for no more than 84 days per calendar year and which shall carry no more than 12 passengers;

“**PYLC Compliance Certificate (PYLCCC)**” means a national certificate confirming that the private yacht complies with the relevant sections of the RMI Yacht Code to satisfy the limited charter requirements;

**“Qualified Individual (QI)”** means an individual or entity which, upon evidence of relevant and sufficient experience, is deemed qualified in writing by the Administrator to carry out pre-registration inspections on private yachts of less than 24 meters;

**“Recognized Organization (RO)”** means an entity: 1) delegated authority to act on behalf of the Administrator with respect to statutory certification and services; and 2) if a Classification Society, has been assessed by the Administrator and found to comply with the RO Code or if an AR, has been assessed by the Administrator and found to substantially comply with the RO Code;

**“Rules of Class”** means the rules for the construction of yachts as established and used by a Classification Society for the purpose of classification;

**“Yacht Engaged in Trade (YET)”** means a private yacht registered as per Chapter 2, Part V, of the RMI Maritime Act that is eligible to obtain a valid Temporary Certificate of Registry for Yacht Engaged in Trade and which maintains a valid Yacht Engaged in Trade Compliance Certificate, and therefore may be engaged in temporary chartering for no more than 84 days in a calendar year, which shall carry no more than 12 passengers and is 24 meters load line length or more; and

**“Yacht Engaged in Trade Compliance Certificate (YETCC)”** means a national certificate that confirms that the yacht meets the applicable requirements in the RMI Yacht Code (MI-103).

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

### **1.0 International Statutory Convention Certificates and Voluntary Statements of Compliance**

#### **1.1 Classed Yachts**

1.1.1 All commercial yachts and YETs of 500 GT and more and all PAXYs intending to register must maintain class with a Classification Society.

1.1.3 The statutory international convention certificates for classed yachts are to be issued by the yacht’s Classification Society. However, the audits, surveys and inspections for International Safety Management (ISM), International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) and Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006) along with the issuance of the relevant certification may be carried out by Class or an AR on any sized classed yacht, as applicable

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

1.2.1 All yachts of less than 500 GT intending to register as a commercial yacht and all private yachts less than 500 GT that have been authorized by the Administrator as a YET, shall be able to demonstrate that their hull and machinery was built to a known high standard. This is typically accomplished by having the yacht built to Rules of Class and issued a

Class certificate.

- 1.2.2 All unclassified commercial yachts and YETs of less than 500 GT must have their applicable surveys and the statutory certification carried out by an AR.
- 1.2.3 Regardless of section 1.2.2 above, the audits, surveys and inspections for ISM, ISPS and MLC, 2006 along with the issuance of the relevant certification may be carried out by Class or an AR on any sized unclassified yacht, as applicable.

### **1.3 Voluntary Statement of Compliance for Private Yachts**

Private yachts that voluntarily comply with any International Statutory Convention which is not otherwise applicable to the private yacht may be issued a Statement of International Convention Voluntary Compliance, subject to annual endorsement, to the specific convention. The entity issuing the Statement of International Convention Voluntary Compliance should seek guidance from the Administrator regarding any additional explanatory notation to be inserted into the Statement of International Convention Voluntary Compliance.

## **2.0 Commercial Yachts and YETs**

### **2.1 Pre-Registration Vetting**

All commercial yachts and private yachts with the intent to obtain a Temporary Certificate of Registry for YET are subject to a pre-registration vetting prior to registration under the RMI flag.

### **2.2 Commercial Yacht and YET Flag State Compliance Verification**

- 2.2.1 All commercial yachts and YETs, regardless of GT, shall be certified to comply with the requirements of the RMI Yacht Code.
- 2.2.2 For all commercial yachts and YETs, regardless of GT, the initial and renewal Compliance Verification and issuance of a short-term CYCC or YETCC, valid up to five (5) months, must be carried out by an AR.
- 2.2.3 For commercial yachts that have not been issued a SOLAS Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, the short-term CYCC or YETCC shall be accompanied by a Yacht Record of Safety Equipment (MI-289 (Form E)), issued by the AR, to confirm the safety equipment onboard.
- 2.2.4 A short-term CYCC or YETCC shall be forwarded by the AR to the Administrator for review. Once the yacht has satisfied the requirements of the RMI Yacht Code, a full-term CYCC or YETCC will be issued by the Administrator. This full-term CYCC or YETCC will be valid for five (5) years and be subject to annual Compliance Verification and endorsement within three (3) months before or after the anniversary date by the attending AR.

2.2.5 For all commercial yachts and YETs, regardless of GT, the annual Compliance Verification and endorsement for the CYCC or YETCC, as described in 2.2.4 above, must be carried out by an AR.

2.2.6 Commercial yachts or YETs that carry a tender must take section 6.0 of this Notice into account.

### **3.0 Private Yachts**

#### **3.1 Pre-Registration for Private Yachts 20 Years of Age or Less**

3.1.1 All private yachts 20 years of age or less are subject to a pre-registration vetting prior to registration under the RMI flag.

3.1.2 All **classed** private yachts of 20 years of age or less, regardless of tonnage and size, may, at the discretion of the Administrator, satisfy the pre-registration inspection requirements by the submission of current valid class and statutory certificates. In this case, a separate inspection will normally not be required; however, a current list of firefighting and lifesaving appliances should be submitted for review. The inspection form MSD 252 PY PRE-REG may be used as guidance in this case.

3.1.3 All **unclassed** private yachts 20 years of age or less, regardless of tonnage and size, are required to undergo a pre-registration inspection prior to registration under the RMI flag. (Reference 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 below)

3.1.4 For unclassed private yachts 20 years of age or less and 24 meters or more in length overall (LOA), the inspection referenced in 3.1.3 above shall be carried out by an AR.

3.1.5 For unclassed private yachts 20 years of age or less and less than 24 meters in LOA, the inspection referenced in 3.1.3 shall be carried out by an AR or a QI. Once the Administrator has been informed by the owner or the yacht's representative which inspecting entity has been appointed by the owner, the Administrator will forward an RMI pre-registration inspection form (MSD 252PY PRE-REG) for completion.

#### **3.2 Pre-Registration Vetting and Inspection for Private Yachts Over 20 Years of Age**

3.2.1 All private yachts over 20 years of age are subject to a pre-registration vetting prior to registration under the RMI flag.

3.2.2 All private yachts over 20 years of age are required to undergo a pre-registration inspection prior to registration under the RMI flag.

3.2.3 Private yachts over 20 years of age and of 24 meters or more in LOA shall be surveyed by an AR

3.2.4 For private yachts over 20 years of age and of less than 24 meters LOA, the inspection as

referenced in 3.2.2 above shall be carried out by an AR or a QI. Once the Administrator has been informed by the owner or the yacht's representative which inspecting entity has been appointed by the owner, the Administrator will forward an RMI pre-registration inspection form (MSD 252PY PRE-REG) for completion.

### **3.3 Annual Voluntary Compliance Verification for Private Yachts**

- 3.3.1 Private yachts, which are not PYLCs or YETs, are not required to undergo the mandatory annual Compliance Verification, but may choose to comply with the requirements of a PYLC or commercial yacht on a voluntary basis. Annual Voluntary Compliance Verifications shall be carried out by an AR.
- 3.3.2 Upon satisfactory completion of the annual Voluntary Compliance Verification, the Administrator will issue a Statement of National Voluntary Compliance.

## **4.0 PYLCs**

### **4.1 Pre-Registration Inspection for PYLCs**

Yachts intending to register under the RMI flag as a private yacht limited charter must be able to satisfy the requirements of sections 3.0 above and 4.2 below of this Notice.

### **4.2 PYLC Flag State Compliance**

- 4.2.1 Privately registered yachts of more than 18 meters LOA and less than 500 GT intending to engage in charter activities for a limited period of not more than 84 days within one (1) calendar year must undergo an initial Compliance Verification in accordance with the requirements of the applicable sections of the RMI Yacht Code.
- 4.2.2 For all PYLCs, the initial and renewal Compliance Verification and the issuance of a short-term PYLCCC, valid up to five (5) months, must be carried out by an AR.
- 4.2.3 For PYLCs that have not been issued a SOLAS Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, the short-term PYLCCC shall be accompanied by a Yacht Record of Safety Equipment (MI-289 (Form E)), issued by the AR to confirm the safety equipment onboard.
- 4.2.4 The short-term PYLCCC, valid for a maximum of five (5) months, shall be forwarded by the AR to the Administrator for review. Once the yacht has satisfied the PYLC requirements, a full-term PYLCCC will be issued by the Administrator. This full-term PYLCCC will be valid for five (5) years and be subject to annual Compliance Verification and endorsement within three (3) months before or after the anniversary date by the attending AR.
- 4.2.5 For all PYLCs, regardless of GT, the annual Compliance Verification and endorsement must be carried out by an AR.
- 4.2.6 PYLCs that carry a tender must take section 6.0 of this Notice into account.

## **5.0 PAXYs**

### **5.1 Pre-Registration Vetting for PAXYs**

All PAXYs, regardless of GT, are subject to a pre-registration vetting prior to registration under the RMI flag.

### **5.2 PAXY Flag State Compliance Verification**

- 5.2.1 All PAXYs, regardless of GT, shall be certified to comply with the requirements of the RMI Yacht Code.
- 5.2.2 For all PAXYs, the initial and renewal Compliance Verification and issuance of a short-term PAXYCC, valid up to five (5) months, must be carried out by an AR.
- 5.2.3 A short-term PAXYCC shall be forwarded by the AR to the Administrator for review. Once the PAXY has satisfied the requirements of the RMI Yacht Code, a full-term PAXYCC will be issued by the Administrator. This full-term PAXYCC will be valid for five (5) years and be subject to annual Compliance Verification and endorsement within three (3) months before or after the anniversary date by the attending AR.
- 5.2.4 For all PAXYs, the annual Compliance Verification and endorsement for the PAXYCC, as described in 5.2.3 above, shall be carried out by an AR.
- 5.2.5 PAXYs that carry a tender must take section 6.0 of this Notice into account.

## **6.0 Registration and Compliance of Tenders**

- 6.1 Tenders carried on board any size commercial yacht, PAXY, PYLC, or YET are required to be issued with a Tender Statement of Compliance (TSC) (MI-289TSC). This statement is to be issued by the AR that issues the short-term CYCC, PAXYCC, PYLCCC, YETCC and shall be valid for five (5) years, subject to the annual Compliance Verification and endorsement.
- 6.2 For further guidance on the compliance of tenders, reference should be made to RMI Marine Notice [2-011-43](#).

## **7.0 Compliance Verifications**

### **7.1 Scheduling Initial and Renewal Compliance Verifications**

The owner or representative of any yacht intending to undergo an initial or renewal certification for a commercial yacht, PAXY, PYLC, or YET shall contact an AR directly to make the necessary arrangements. The AR shall notify the Administrator prior to commencing the certification via email to [yacht-inspections@register-iri.com](mailto:yacht-inspections@register-iri.com).

## 7.2 Annual Compliance Verifications

- 7.2.1 It is the responsibility of the yacht's manager or representative to contact the AR directly for the Compliance Verification and endorsement within the appropriate date range.



### Annual Window

- 7.2.2 The AR shall notify the Administrator prior to commencing a Compliance Verification and endorsement via email to the Administrator's yacht inspections email address at [yacht-inspections@register-iri.com](mailto:yacht-inspections@register-iri.com).
- 7.2.3 It is the responsibility of the owner/manager to present the yacht for Compliance Verification and to ensure that the AR is afforded full access to the yacht, its equipment and documentation.
- 7.2.4 Failure to comply with this section 7, which results in an overdue status of the certificate or the endorsement, could lead to the invalidity of the PYLCCC, PAXYCC, CYCC, or YETCC and the Certificate of Registry. Refer also to section 7.5 herein.
- 7.2.5 Yachts that allow their Certificate of Registry to become invalid may be subject to an initial or renewal Compliance Verification.

## 7.3 Renewal Compliance Verification

Renewal Compliance Verifications carried out by an AR shall be within three (3) months prior to the expiration of the CYCC, PAXYCC, PYLCCC, or YETCC or as otherwise deemed necessary by the Administrator.

## 7.4 Special Compliance Verifications

The Administrator may require a yacht to undergo a special or unscheduled Compliance Verification in cases of a port State Control examination or detention or other circumstances where an additional audit by the Classification Society or AR has been



deemed necessary by the Administrator. Additional charges may apply for these Compliance Verifications.

## **7.5 Overdue Compliance Verifications**

- 7.5.1 If a yacht is unable to undergo a required Compliance Verification within the appropriate window, the owner must apply to the Administrator, via the AR, for authorization to allow the Compliance Verification to become overdue or the Compliance Certificate to become invalid. Such application must be in writing and must state the reason such certificates cannot be renewed or the reason the Compliance Verification cannot be done in the appropriate timeframe.
- 7.5.2 If no authorization is granted and a certificate becomes invalid or a Compliance Verification becomes overdue, the yacht is immediately prohibited from engaging in any charter activities. If the Compliance Verification or the certificate remains overdue for more than 30 days, the Administrator will revoke, without any prior notification, the yacht's Compliance Certificate and, for a PYLC, the yacht will be downgraded to a Private Yacht and prohibited from chartering.
- 7.5.3 Once the yacht has been downgraded to a Private Yacht or the Compliance Certificate has been revoked, the yacht must undergo a renewal Compliance Verification to reinstate the Compliance Certificate. Reinstatement of the Compliance Certificate is subject to a fee, as prescribed by the Administrator in [MN 1-005-1](#). Such fee does not include the charges that may apply for the services carried out by the AR.