



**REPUBLIC OF
THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**
MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

Marine Notice

No. 2-011-55

Rev. Feb/2020

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

SUBJECT: Conducting Surveys and Certificates for Private Yachts

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

PURPOSE

This Notice outlines the revised 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. Mar/2019. An amended §1.2 clarifies that ISM, ISPS, and MLC certifications are not required for Private Yachts (PY).

APPLICABILITY

This Notice 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 Marine Notice uses terminology defined in the RMI Maritime Regulations (MI-108), §1.03 and the RMI Yacht Code (MI-103), Chapter I, §3.0.

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 their 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 a 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).

1.3 Voluntary Statement of Compliance for Private Yachts

Private yachts that voluntarily comply with an international convention that is not otherwise applicable may be issued a Statement of International Convention Voluntary Compliance for the specific convention, subject to annual endorsement. The AR or Classification Society issuing this document must seek guidance from the Administrator regarding any additional explanatory notations.

2.0 Pre-Registration Inspections for Private Yachts 20 Years Old or Less

2.1 Private yachts less than 24 meters in length, regardless of tonnage, are not required to undergo a pre-registration inspection. However, the Administrator reserves the right to require such an inspection as deemed necessary.

2.2 All unclassified private yachts of 24 meters or more in length and less than 400 GT, must undergo a pre-registration inspection by an AR. This must be accomplished prior to registration, unless otherwise authorized by the Administrator.

2.3 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 private yacht's Certificate of Registry becoming invalid and, consequently, the yacht's deletion from the RMI Registry.

- 2.4 All unclassified private yachts of 24 meters or more in length and 400 GT or more (and thus subject to statutory certification), are required to undergo a pre-registration inspection. This must be carried out by an AR prior to registration.
- 2.5 All classed private yachts of 24 meters or more in length, 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 are to be submitted for the Administrator's review prior to registration.
- 2.6 In cases where §2.1 or §2.2 apply, the owner must complete the *Declaration of Private Use - Not for Hire* ([MI-127PY](#)) acknowledging their responsibility to meet certain safety and environmental pollution prevention requirements.

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

- 3.1 All private yachts over 20 years old, regardless of size, are required to undergo a pre-registration inspection prior to registration under the RMI flag.
- 3.2 Private yachts over 20 years old and 24 meters or more in length must be inspected by an AR.
- 3.3 Private yachts over 20 years old and less than 24 meters in length, must be inspected by an AR or a Qualified Individual (QI). The owner must contact the AR or QI directly to schedule attendance.
- 3.4 RMI-approved QIs are listed in ([MI-103B](#)), *RMI Approved Qualified Individuals*.
- 3.5 RMI-approved ARs are listed in Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#).

4.0 Voluntary Compliance Verification for Private Yachts

- 4.1 Private yachts not taking part in the PYLC or YET programs may choose to comply voluntarily with the requirements of a PYLC or commercial yacht. If voluntary compliance is chosen, the yacht will be required to undergo initial and annual Voluntary Compliance Verifications, which must be carried out by an AR.
- 4.2 On satisfactory completion of the annual Voluntary Compliance Verification, the Administrator will issue a Statement of Voluntary Compliance which is subject to annual endorsements.
- 4.3 Yachts that are voluntarily compliant as a PYLC or commercial yacht must follow the applicable Compliance Verification requirements as provided in either RMI Marine Notice [2-011-53](#), or RMI Marine Notice [2-011-54](#).

5.0 Re-Registration for Private Yachts

- 5.1 Private yachts that apply for a re-registration due to an owner change are subject to the requirements in §1.0 through §4.0 above.
- 5.2 Yachts carrying a compliance certificate for PYLC seeking to re-register as a private yacht may do so without a pre-registration inspection, provided that the applicable International Statutory Convention Certificates are valid.