

Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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YACHT SAFETY ADVISORY No. 03-18

To: Yacht Owners/Captains, Managers, Agents, Recognized Class Societies and Appointed Representatives

Subject: UNITED STATES COAST GUARD POLICY FOR FOREIGN FLAGGED PRIVATE YACHTS CALLING IN THE UNITED STATES

Date: 5 March 2018 (renewed 12 February 2023)

This Yacht Safety Advisory (YSA) supersedes YSA 03-17.

In November 2015, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) issued [Policy Letter 15-04](#) addressing procedures for examinations of all foreign yachts, including private yachts, of 300 gross tons (GT) or more entering the United States (US).

The USCG Policy Letter contains specific procedures for examinations of all foreign flagged yachts, regardless of registration type (i.e., commercial, private, etc.), measuring 300 GT or more as measured under the International Tonnage Convention, 1969 operating in US navigable waters. Non-compliance to the USCG examination requirements may lead to control actions by the USCG Port State Control Officers, including issuance of deficiencies and possible detention.

As a result of the USCG Policy Letter and questions about the applicability of a Minimum Safe Manning Certificate to private yachts, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator (the "Administrator") is issuing the attached letter, *Minimum Safe Manning on Republic of the Marshall Islands Private Yachts Calling the United States*, to all private yachts of 300 GT or more registered in the RMI.

Private yachts may opt for a voluntary certification for compliance to an established standard, such as the RMI Yacht Code. More information for voluntary compliance may be requested by contacting the Administrator at: Yacht-Inspections@register-iri.com.

This YSA is evaluated annually by the Administrator and expires one year after its issuance or renewal unless otherwise noted, superseded, or revoked.



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, MASTERS AND OFFICERS OF PRIVATE YACHTS OF 300 GROSS TONS OR MORE

SUBJECT: Minimum Safe Manning on Republic of the Marshall Islands Private Yachts Calling the United States

Please be informed that under the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (UNCLOS), the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), and other IMO conventions, flag States are responsible for promulgating laws and regulations and for taking all other steps which may be necessary to give these conventions full and complete effect so as to ensure that, from the point of view of safety of life at sea and protection of the marine environment, a vessel is fit for the service for which it is intended and is manned with competent maritime personnel.

As a result, pursuant to the Republic of the Marshall Islands Maritime Regulation 7.38.6,

Minimum Safe Manning Certificate.

The Maritime Administrator, or an official who is authorized to act for and on behalf of the Maritime Administrator, shall issue to each vessel a Minimum Safe Manning Certificate setting forth the required *minimum* numbers of officers, crew and other persons, in specified grades, ratings and functions, which have been prescribed for the safe navigation and operation of that vessel and the protection of the crew and passengers on board. This Certificate shall be readily available for inspection with a copy conspicuously posted. This section is not applicable to private yachts, except private yachts limited charter and yachts engaged in trade.

Further, private yachts are specifically exempted from STCW per Article III(b).

In accordance with international conventions and Republic of the Marshall Islands regulations, private yachts registered in the Republic of the Marshall Islands that are being used solely for pleasure or recreational purposes of the yacht owner are not issued a Minimum Safe Manning Certificate. However, it is at all times the responsibility of the Master to ensure that the private yacht is manned in such a way as to ensure the safe operation of the yacht, the safety and security of all persons on board, and the protection of the marine environment.

Should there be any questions or concerns regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Administrator.