



Republic of the Marshall Islands

MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR

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YACHT TECHNICAL CIRCULAR

Circular Number: 12

Revision: 0

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Date: 30 May 2023

Change of Flag Requirements for Statutory Compliance

1.0 Purpose

The Circular clarifies the statutory certification procedures and survey requirements for yachts changing flag from another registry into the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Registry.

2.0 Classed Yachts

2.1 Classed yachts must inform the Classification Society about the intended change of flag (CoF) and request the statutory services for the required CoF. These services must be carried out in accordance with the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Procedural Requirement [PR-28](#).

2.2 All yachts classed with an authorized Classification Society¹ must submit a Statement of Class to the Administrator confirming that the Classification Society:

- .1 has no objection for the yacht to remain in Class; and
- .2 that the statutory certificates and documents will be issued on behalf of the RMI.

3.0 Unclassed Yachts

Yachts of 24 meters or more in length not classed with one of the authorized Classification Societies must request an Appointed Representative to carry out the statutory services. The yacht must be issued with the applicable certificates as required by the international maritime conventions and RMI Maritime Regulations.

4.0 Verifications

4.1 The items in §5.0 through §7.0 must be verified by an attending RO surveyor or representative of the Administrator before a Certificate of Registry is issued to any yacht.

4.2 Verifications may be carried out remotely, on a case-by-case basis, provided that the RO has received authorization from the Administrator.

1. See RMI Marine Guideline [2-11-15](#).

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5.0 Markings

5.1 The name of the yacht and port of registry must be permanently marked on the yacht's stern in a contrasting color and distinctly visible.

5.2 Each lifebuoy must be marked with the yacht's name and port of registry.

6.0 Programing Radio Transmitting and Receiving Equipment

6.1 Radio transmitting and receiving equipment (including the applicable Life Saving Appliances) must have been re-programmed with the correct RMI details, including:

- .1 the name of the yacht;
- .2 call sign;
- .3 MMSI number; and
- .4 the IMO number, where applicable.

6.2 Particular attention must be given, but is not limited to:

- .1 Inmarsat Terminals

Refer to RMI Marine Notice (MN) [4-033-1](#) for the procedures on activating, deactivating, and updating Inmarsat mobile earth station information. See MN [4-033-4](#) for a list of Accounting Authorities Identification Codes (AAIC).

- .2 Other Radio Transmitting Devices

- a. Any other transmitting radio devices, including equipment as part of the GMDSS (e.g., VHF DSC, MF/HF-DSC), must be reprogrammed by an authorized service provider with the allocated RMI Call Sign, MMSI number and, where applicable, the registered name of the yacht.
- b. Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) and Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs) must be reprogrammed per RMI requirements and a copy of a programming certificate must be sent to radio@register-iri.com. See MN [4-033-5](#).

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.3 Long-Range Identification and Tracking

For yachts installed with Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT), including yachts that wish to voluntarily participate under LRIT, a copy of the Conformance Test Report (CTR) when under the RMI flag must be submitted to the Administrator. See MN [2-011-25](#) and Yacht Technical Circular [YTC 8](#).

.4 Automatic Identification Systems (AIS)

For yachts fitted with AIS, the equipment must be reprogrammed by an authorized service provider with the allocated RMI Call Sign, MMSI number and, where applicable, the new registered name of the yacht. See MN [2-011-17](#).

6.3 Deletion Requirements

When a yacht is deleted from the RMI Registry, the above equipment must be reprogrammed with the new details of the gaining flag.

7.0 Amendments to Documentation

All logbooks, plans, procedures, and other relevant documentation must be amended to reflect the correct details and reference the RMI particulars.

8.0 Designated Persons

8.1 ISM Code Yachts

The owner or Company of a yacht subject to the International Safety Management Code ([ISM Code](#)) must appoint a Designated Person Ashore (DPA) and Alternate DPA having direct access to the highest level of management with whom the Administrator may communicate with at any time.

8.2 Non-ISM Code Yachts

The owner or managers of a non-ISM Code yacht must appoint a Designated Person (DP) and Alternate DP as a point of contact with whom the Administrator may establish direct and immediate contact for communications in case of an emergency or other important matters.

8.3 The Administrator expects the DPAs, DPs, and their alternates to provide 24/7 coverage for the yacht.

8.4 The required contact details must be supplied at registration with any updates to them emailed to the Administrator at: registrations@register-iri.com.
