

	MARITIME AUTHORITY OF JAMAICA MEASURES TO AID REGULATION OF NEW PLEASURE CRAFT REGIME	Circular No.	14 - 07 - 05	P
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TO:

- (I) JAMAICAN REGISTERED SHIPS
- (II) JAMAICA CUSTOMS AGENCY
- (III) JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE COAST GUARD
- (IV) JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE MARINE POLICE DIVISION
- IV) MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
- V) DEPUTY REGISTRARS AND MARKETING REPRESENTATIVES

Subject: Jamaican and Foreign Registered Pleasure Craft (Yachts) operating in Jamaican waters.

References: Shipping Act, 1998

Shipping (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2013

Shipping (Registration of Ships) Regulations, 2005

Application: Yachts Based in Jamaica

In 2012 several laws related to the importation of yachts which arrive in Jamaica on their own bottom were amended to remove the customs duty and other applicable charges. The new law requires that all yachts be registered as Jamaican yachts and an annual levy, calculated on the year of build and size of the vessel, be paid.

Alternatively, a vessel will be required to hold a valid foreign registration and apply for a cruising permit which will entitle the vessel to remain in Jamaica for six (6) months, save and except for U.S.A flag yachts which may remain up to twelve (12) months in accordance with a bilateral arrangement with the US Government.

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NB. Many yachts have not been registered as Jamaican yachts and/or paid the annual levy. These yachts should be detained until they are duly registered and or have paid the annual levy.

Yachts based overseas

The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) through the Jamaica Ship Registry (JSR) has been registering yachts owned by foreign companies which are customarily moored overseas. These yachts are not required to pay the annual levy as they would not have been imported into Jamaica and therefore be liable to pay the customs duty and other charges under the former regime.

Having regard to the promotion of Jamaica as a destination for nautical tourism, it is expected that overseas based Jamaican registered yachts will be visiting Jamaica. A yacht based overseas may enter or leave Jamaican waters at any time, without being required to have a Cruising Permit. Any operation otherwise, requires that the vessel, unless Jamaican, be issued with a Cruising Permit.

The Certificate of Registry issued to both categories of yachts, is identical and the fact that only locally based yachts are required to pay an annual levy in lieu of customs duties and other charges it is important to distinguish the categories of vessels for the purpose of enforcement.

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To assist in the process of readily distinguishing between Jamaican yachts based in Jamaica and those visiting, the Jamaica Ship Registry will be endorsing the Certificate of Registry for all compliant vessels with the following remark:

“PRINCIPAL PLACE OF MOORING: RJYC or MBYC etc”

The remark will be affixed on both the provisional and the permanent certificates as in the attached sample Certificate of Registry for the vessel “TUFRONTO”.

The provision is with immediate effect. All certificates issued previously and to which the Amendment Fees Regulations will be withdrawn and replaced by certificates appropriately endorsed.

While the Certificate of Registry will indicate a yacht’s compliance with the Fees Regulation, at the time of issue of the certificate, there will be no mechanism by which continued compliance may be indicated. To address this, the MAJ will ensure that the safety inspection certificate of only compliant vessels are renewed biennially.

Where a yacht is to retain its Jamaican registration as a non-operational yacht, such a yacht will not have a Small Vessel Safety Inspection Certificate. The Certificate of Registry will in such an instance reflect the addition remark:

“VESSEL NOT REGISTERED FOR OPERATION”

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It is therefore recommended that enforcement agencies inspect the Small Vessel Safety Inspection Certificates for validity while also inspecting the Certificate of Registry for the remark. Actions stipulated by law, should follow where operational yachts are found without a valid Small Vessel Safety Inspection Certificate.

Authorized Officer:

The Registrar of Ships has the responsibility for enforcement of the above provisions and may delegate appropriately.

Effective date: The above provisions take effect September 1, 2014.

REGISTRAR GENERAL

August 27, 2014

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