



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**REGISTRATION OF MANX SHIPS AND YACHTS UNDER  
PART 1 OF THE MERCHANT SHIPPING REGISTRATION ACT  
1991 (THE MAIN REGISTER)**

**The aim of this advice note is to provide guidance notes for  
procedure on first Registry (i.e. for a ship which is a new ship or a  
foreign flag ship)**

*(Advice note to owners, Representatives, agents, legal representatives and  
operators of ships and yachts)*

**Most regulations, notices and advice notes are available on The Isle  
of Man Government web site: [www.iomshipregistry.com](http://www.iomshipregistry.com) or by  
contacting [marine.registry@gov.im](mailto:marine.registry@gov.im)**

The applicant being the intended registered owner should:-

1. Apply in writing for registration to the Registrar of Ships at the Isle of Man Registry, St Georges Court, Upper Church Street, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 1EX, which includes the name approval process using Form **REG 1**. It is suggested that the name availability is verbally checked with the Registrar beforehand;

Ships may be registered at the ports of Castletown, Douglas, Peel or Ramsey.

2. Provide a Certificate of Survey being a document normally prepared by an approved Classification Society detailing the parameters of the ship as follows:-
  - (a) In the case of pleasure yachts of under 24 metres) overall length as detailed in Registry Advice Note 3
  - (b) In the case of all other ships as detailed in Registry Advice Note No 04.
3. Produce evidence of title of ownership. If the ship has not been

previously registered the applicant will be required to produce a Builders Certificate and all subsequent documents of sale (if any) prior to Registry in the applicant's name. In the case of a ship which was previously foreign registered the evidence required is a Bill of Sale from the last foreign owner to the applicant.

4. In the case of company ownership provide a Certificate of Incorporation of that company and an authorised officer for the company must be appointed. (Form **REG 3**).
5. Make a Declaration of Ownership (Forms **REG 4, REG 5 or REG 14**) depending on whether company, individual ownership or limited partnership.
6. Appoint a representative person in the Isle of Man (if applicable).
7. For a pleasure vessel, complete form **REG 15** declaring that the vessel is to be used for pleasure.
8. In the case of merchant ships and large yachts make arrangements with Isle of Man Registry if a pre-registration survey by an Isle of Man Surveyor is required.
9. Provide a Deletion Certificate or evidence that previous registry is closed in the case of a ship from a foreign flag.
10. A new call sign and MMSI number are required to be obtained and the equipment re-programmed at registration.

**The Isle of Man Ship Registry has no responsibility for the issue of the Call Sign, MMSI Number and the Radio Station Licences.**

It is the owner's responsibility to obtain these from Ofcom, which has been re-branded as Spectrum Licensing.

**Applications are to be made online (details as follows):**

*Website:* [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

<http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/radiocommunication-licences/ships-radio/>

*E-mail:* [Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk)

Your appointed Represented Person on the isle of Man should be able to help with this. Once obtained, the call sign and MMSI number are to be forwarded to the Isle of Man Ship Registry for our records. Once the EPIRB is programmed, notification should be passed to the

Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in Falmouth:

**Tel: +44 1326 211569**  
**Fax: +44 1326 319264**

This notification can also be registered online at:

<http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue/epirb.htm>

- 11.** If a merchant vessel is transferring from another flag, arrange for the continuous synopsis record (CSR) to be forwarded to this Registry.
- 12.** Pay fees prior to any inspection or survey being carried out and the ship being registered. The fees are based on a fixed fee for registration whilst inspection/survey fees are based on a hourly rate for the Surveyor plus the costs of traveling and subsistence.

On completion of the above procedures, an Official Number will be allocated to the ship and a Carving and Marking Note will be issued indicating how the ship is to be marked.

Following a satisfactory inspection/survey of the ship and the marking of the ship and certification of the Carving and Marking Note by an authorised person, (usually a Surveyor from the Registry or an approved Classification Society in the case of merchant ships and large yachts or in the case of the smaller yachts by the owner or owner's authorised officer), the ship will be registered and a Certificate of Registry will be issued together with the appropriate certificates referred to in (8) above if relevant.

The forms specified above are available from the Registrar of Ships or from our website at [www.iomshipregistry.com](http://www.iomshipregistry.com)

Registry Advice Note No 05 outlines the additional documentation required to be submitted when application is made by a Limited Partnership.

For details of other registration procedures such as the transfer of registration from other British Territories and registration of bills of sale and mortgages etc., please contact the Registrar of Ships at Isle of Man Ship Registry.

More comprehensive information regarding registration of ships and yachts can be obtained from:

Registrar of Ships  
Isle of Man Ship Registry  
St Georges Court  
Upper Church Street  
Douglas

Isle of Man  
IM1 1EX

Telephone: +44 1624 688500  
Fax: +44 1624 688501  
e-mail: [registry.marine@gov.im](mailto:registry.marine@gov.im)