

Isle of Man Ship Registry announces barrier-breaking changes

The Isle of Man Ship Registry is pleased to announce three important changes to its operating practices designed at making registration more attractive and simpler for its clients:

- **New Flag-In Requirements** – we have removed some of the ‘barriers’ - some perceived and some ‘real’ for clients wishing to register. It will now be simpler, easier to arrange and more cost effective. The changes include:
 - **Pre-registry survey** requirements – where an absolute requirement to visit and inspect each vessel prior to registration was in place, we have changed this policy. With improved data and intelligence on ship performance, we can now waive this requirement for vessels under 10 years of age, which satisfy our vetting processes for both ship and company performance. This includes newbuildings, many of which are under construction in the Far East, which should assist the registry process and reduce the initial costs for Isle of Man registration dramatically.
 - **Accepted Ship Types** – we have introduced previously excluded ship types such as passenger vessels. This is a natural progression as super yachts become larger and move towards full SOLAS compliance for greater ‘guest numbers’ and we look forward to working in this new sector.
 - **Age limits** – we have changed the limits to age on entry for ships. Previously set at 15 years – this has been extended to 20 years and even further for vessels which are technically managed from the Isle of Man.
- **Accepted Countries** - in 2007 the Isle of Man introduced legislation to extend the number of countries accepted for ownership of Manx vessels. Previously we were constrained by legislation inherited from the UK to EU; EEA and British Dependent Territories. The list of accepted countries has now been extended to include: Australia; Bahamas; Canada; China; Hong Kong; India; Japan; Liberia; Marshall Islands; New Zealand; Pakistan; Panama; Russia; Singapore; South Africa; United Arab Emirates; and United States of America. This will allow ownership structures of vessels using companies registered in the above countries to remain unchanged when vessels transfer registration to the Isle of Man and thus provide a smoother transition.
- **Stephenson Harwood** – in lieu of British consular services in London, Stephenson Harwood have acted on behalf of the Isle of Man in receiving title documents (e.g. Bill of Sale, registration of mortgages) on behalf of the Registrar of Ships. This service has now been extended to include Stephenson Harwood’s offices in Piraeus; Hong Kong; Singapore; & Shanghai, thus covering many of the world’s major shipping centres.

The above changes have been brought about by the Ship Registry’s strive for continual improvement in its services to its clients. It will continue to challenge and improve the way in which it operates and more changes can be expected in the future. As always its focus will remain on customer service whilst the quality of the fleet remains of paramount importance.

Owners or operators wishing to take advantage of, or discuss these changes, should contact the ship registry on +44 1624 688500 or by email at registry.marine@gov.im

