

Isle of Man Ship Registry

Registry Advice Notice



Registration Of Manx Ships And Yachts Under Part 1 of the Merchant Shipping Registration Act 1991 (The Main Register)

Ref. RAN 04 (Rev.1)
Issued 04/02/2026

1. Introduction

The aim of this advice note is to provide guidance notes for the procedure on first Registry of a ship as a Manx Ship under Part I of the Merchant Shipping Register (i.e. for a ship which is a new ship or a foreign flag ship).

Most regulations, notices and advice notes are available on the ship registry [website](#) or by contacting registry.marine@gov.im

2. Registration Process

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 [RAN 03](#).
 - b) In the case of all other ships as detailed in [RAN 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 03](#)).
- 5) Make a Declaration of Ownership (Forms [REG 04](#), [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 the 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: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/radio-equipment/ships-radio>

E-mail: 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:

www.mcga.gov.uk

If a merchant vessel is transferring from another flag, arrange for the continuous synopsis record (CSR) to be forwarded to this Registry.

3. Post-Application Procedures and Certification

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.

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.

The forms specified above are available from the Registrar of Ships or from our [website](#).

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

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

