Gibraltar Maritime Administration
HM Government of Gibraltar

Watergate House
2/8 Casemates Square
Gibraltar

Tel (+350)200 46862 / 200 47771 /200 50424
Fax (+350) 200 47770
e-mail: maritime.survey@gibraltar.gov.gi
maritime.registry@gibraltar.gov.gi

Shipping Guidance Notice 144

Change of Yacht Use (From Commercial to Pleasure and Vice Versa)

To: Yacht Owners, Yacht Managers, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

1. Application

This SGN and its contents are only applicable to yachts of 24m or over.

2. Introduction

The yachting world is mainly divided into pleasure yachts for private use, and commercial yachts.

There are times when owners primarily making use of their vessels as pleasure yachts, may want to avail themselves of occasional charters. In such cases, flexibility for switching between pleasure and commercial registrations is advantageous.

The Gibraltar Yacht Registry can offer owners such a facility, for yachts of 24m and over, and this SGN provides guidance on how yachts that primarily function as pleasure vessels, but maintain commercial certification, may smoothly transition between a Pleasure Yacht registration and Commercial Yacht registration in accordance with relevant regulations.

3. Transition Between Commercial and Pleasure

A yacht of 24m and over, can switch between Commercial and Pleasure Yacht registration regularly; however, as per regulations, it can only hold one Certificate of Registry at any given time.

To be registered as a commercial yacht, the vessel must possess valid certification in respect of compliance with underlying requirements as appropriate to its size.

The yacht must be 24m or over in length and the Compliance certification must remain valid for the entire duration the vessel is registered as a commercial yacht.

The most recent Certificate of Registry will automatically supersede any previous Certificate of

Registry not in use.

It is imperative to note, that vessels switching regularly between commercial and pleasure registrations, in order to continue to avail themselves of the facility, when operating under a Pleasure Certificate of Registry, *must at all times* maintain compliance with underlying requirements, as they would apply if it were a commercial vessel. Failure to do so may result in delays when transitioning between pleasure and commercial Certificates of Registry.

4. Procedure for Changing Between Commercial Yacht and Pleasure Yacht Certificates of Registry

Submit a Request to the GMA (Flag Administration)

1. Notification in writing - The authorised person must submit a formal, written request to the GMA to change the Certificate of Registry from a Commercial Yacht to a Pleasure Yacht, or from a Pleasure Yacht to a Commercial Yacht. This request should be directed to both the Yacht Registry Division and the Survey Division.

2. Declaration — The request must include a Declaration of Registration, specifying the intended use of the vessel as either a Pleasure Yacht or a Commercial Yacht.

3. Issuance of the New Certificate of Registry – Subject to approval by the GMA, the appropriate Certificate of Registry — either for a Pleasure Yacht or a Commercial Yacht — will be issued.

4. Inform Recognised Organisations (ROs) – The vessel's Recognised Organisations (ROs) must be informed of the change in registry status of the yacht, whether from commercial to pleasure or from pleasure to commercial, as applicable.

Dylan Cocklan
Maritime Administrator

Issue date: 08 October 2024

All notices are available via https://www.gibraltarship.com/

This copy of the Administrative Instruction has been issued electronically and does not carry a signature or official stamp. A signed and stamped copy is available upon request