



Guide to Seychelles Ship and Yacht Registration

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PREFACE

This Guide has been produced as an aid to those seeking general information with respect to ship registration in Seychelles. It is designed to serve as a starting-point for a more detailed and comprehensive discussion of the substantive legal and regulatory issues involved. The Guide should not be used as a substitute for professional advice.

Before proceeding with any matter discussed herein, persons are advised to consult with their legal, tax and other professional advisors in their respective jurisdictions.

Appleby
Mahe, Seychelles
June 2009

1. THE SEYCHELLES SHIPPING REGISTER

Registration of ships and yachts is governed by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1992. With the current development of a luxury marina close to Victoria, the attractive registration laws and the year round stable weather conditions, Seychelles is also the obvious choice for luxury vessel registration.

Seychelles is party to a number of international conventions related to shipping including:

- the Collisions Convention
- the Load Line Convention
- the Safety Convention
- the Conventions of the International Maritime Organisation

Seychelles is member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the group of non-aligned countries, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the International Maritime Organization, and vessels flying the Seychelles flag benefit from friendly treatment worldwide.

2. ELIGIBILITY

For a Vessel or Yacht to be eligible for registration under the Seychelles flag it must be wholly owned by:

- Either a Seychelles citizen or
- A Seychelles Body Corporate established either as an International Business Company (IBC) with the Seychelles International Business Authority (SIBA), or as a Domestic company with the Registrar of Companies.

The Vessel must not be older than 15 years. However, if the ship is older, (note that the absolute age limit is 25 years), the vessel will be considered to be able to register if the owner of the vessel can produce necessary builders certificates and documentation that proves that the ship has been serviced / repaired / maintained according to international standards.

3. CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

The present recognised and authorised Classification societies by the Seychelles Ship Registrar are listed below.

- Lloyd's register of Shipping (UK)
- Bureau Veritas (France)
- Nippon Kaiji Ryokai (Japan)
- Det Norske Veritas (Norway)
- America Bureau of Shipping (USA)
- Germanischer Lloyd (Germany)

4. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

If the vessel is not in Seychelles waters, it can be provisionally registered under a Seychelles flag at a diplomatic or consular representative abroad. It will later be permanently registered with the Seychelles Ship Registrar.

A ship is usually registered for an initial period of 90 days, extendable for another 90 days. Once all documents have been submitted and all requirements met, as will be described below, the ship can be provisionally registered.

During this period the vessel owner may wish to permanently register the vessel. No other fees will have to be paid if such registration is done in the 90-day period that the vessel is registered provisionally. Only annual fees are then payable.

If the ship is registered under a body corporate, a certified copy of the Certificate of Incorporation is required. Such incorporation can either be done as an IBC or as a domestic company from whom the necessary documents can be procured.

The vessel owners, or companies managing the vessel will represent additional information that is required by the Ship Registrar in the various forms that have to be filled out.

Particulars Required for Provisional Registration of a Ship:

- Application for Registration of Ship as Seychelles Ship, official number and call sign.
- A certificate signed by the builder of the ship and containing: i) a description of the ship; ii) the estimated tonnage of the ship; iii) the date and place of construction of the ship; and iv) the name of the person, if any, on whose account the ship was built.
- Where the vessel has been registered under the law of a foreign country, a Certificate of Deletion as evidence that registration in that country has ceased.
- Evidence that the applicant is the owner of the ship, through a Declaration of Ownership.
- A list of not less than three alternative names, numbered and order of performance, under which the ship is proposed to be registered.
- Radio license, which requires to be approved by the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, and which the Seychelles Licensing Authority licenses.
- Certificate of Incorporation if a Seychelles Body Corporate owns vessel.

Moreover the following forms are required for the registration of a Ship:

- Application for Registration of Ship as Seychelles Ship, Official Number and Call Sign. (Refer to Annexure A and B)
- Declaration of Ownership. (Refer to Annexure C)
- Application for a Telecoms/Radio License. (Refer to Annexure D)
- Application for activation of Maritime Mobile Earth Station. (Refer to Annexure E)

Particulars required for registration of Yacht:

- A certificate signed by the builder of the ship and containing:
 - a description of the ship;
 - the estimated tonnage of the ship;
 - the date and place of construction of the ship;
 - the name of the person, if any, on whose account the ship was built.
- Where the yacht has been registered under the law of a foreign country, a Certificate of Deletion as evidence that registration in that country has ceased.
- Proof of ownership of the Yacht
- A list of not less than three alternative names under which the ship is proposed to be registered.
- Radio license

Moreover the following forms are required for the registration of a Yacht:

- Application for Registration of Ship as Seychelles Ship, Official Number and Call Sign. (Refer to Annexure F)

- Declaration of Ownership. (Refer to Annexure C)
- Application for a Telecoms/Radio License. (Refer to Annexure D)
- Application for Activation of Maritime Mobile Earth Station. (Refer to Annexure E)

The advantages of registering a vessel in Seychelles are:

- Exemption from all business taxes, work permits and social security contributions for non-Seychellois personnel.
- No tax is paid on the salaries of officers and crew of Seychelles ship which operate in international water.
- Ownership of ship can be 100% foreign.
- When registering a second ship within 12 months of the first registration, owners of ships are entitled to a rebate of 30% on second ship.
- No publication of identity of principals.
- No tax on the profits by an IBC which owns ships under the Seychelles flag and operates in international waters. Further no tax on the dividends paid by the IBC.
- No tax is paid on the sale or transfer of a Seychelles vessel or of the shares in its own company.

Permanent Registration of Ship:

After the 90-day period, or after the expiry of the extension of the registration certificate, the Vessel can be permanently registered at no extra cost. The vessel owner must submit the following statutory certificates and documents.

- Certificate of class
- Cargo ship safety equipment certificate
- Cargo ship safety construction certificate
- International oil pollution certificate
- Minimum safe manning certificate
- Load line certificate
- GMDSS safety radio certificate
- Declaration of transfer
- Bill of sale

Permanent Registration of Yacht

After the period of 90 days, or the expiry of the extension of the registration certificate, the Yacht can be permanently registered at no extra cost. The Yacht owner must submit the following documents.

- Application for permanent registration under Section 23 of the Merchant Shipping Act signed by the attorney of the Seychelles company
- Bill of Sale
- Statutory Certificates issued by the Classification Society
- Carving and Marking Note which is used by the Registrar of Shipping on deposit of documents 2 and 3 above duly signed and sealed by the ship's classification society

5. FEE STRUCTURE

The fee structure is designed to attract fleet registration. Moreover owners registering a second or more ships within 12 months of first registration are entitled to a rebate of 30% on registered vessels.

The following is the fee structure for Ship Registration.

Initial Fees	US\$
0 - 9,999 Gross Tons (GRT)	1.00/GRT with a minimum of 500
10,000 - 49,999 GRT	US\$ 10,000 plus US\$ 0.45/GRT for each ton in excess of 10,000GRT
50,000 Gross tons or more	\$30,000 plus \$0.20/GT for each ton in excess of 50,000 GT

Annual Fees	US\$
0 -1,599 Gross Tons	0.50 / GT
1,600 - 4,999 Gross Tons	0.40 / GT
5,000 - 9,999 Gross Tons	0.20 / GT
10,000 or more Gross Tons	0.10 / GT

Mortgages	US\$
Mortgage Registration	300
Transfer of Mortgage	200
Cancellation of Mortgage	100

Cost of Statutory Certificates

Once all the documents have been submitted and fees have been paid for provisional registration, the Ship registrar will issue the following certificates, depending on the type

Certificate of Provisional Registration	US\$ 150.00
International Tonnage Certificate (if Applicable)	US\$ 150.00
Minimum Safe Manning Certificate	US\$ 150.00
Ships carving and marking Note	US\$ 150.00
Change of Name Certificate (if applicable)	US\$ 150.00
Certificate of Parallel Registry (if applicable)	US\$ 150.00
Provisional Certificate of Registry	US\$ 150.00

International Loadline Certificate (if applicable)	US\$ 150.00
International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (if applicable)	US\$ 150.00
International Fishing Safety Certificate (if applicable)	US\$ 150.00
Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (if applicable)	US\$ 150.00
Deletion Certificate (if applicable)	US\$ 150.00

The Registration fees for Yacht are:

Initial Registration Fee	US\$ 500.00
Annual Fees	US\$ 300.00
Certificate	US\$ 150.00

For more specific advice on Ship and Yacht Registration in the Seychelles, we invite you to contact one of the following:

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Appleby is the leading provider of offshore legal, fiduciary and administration services. With an unparalleled presence in the key offshore jurisdictions of Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Isle of Man, Jersey, Mauritius and the Seychelles, the group offers advice on offshore law. We also have offices in the international financial centres of London, Hong Kong, Zurich and Bahrain.

Over 800 lawyers and professional specialists deliver sophisticated, specialised services, primarily in the areas of Corporate and Commercial; Litigation and Insolvency; Private Client and Trusts; and Property. We advise global public and private companies, financial institutions, and high net worth individuals, working with them and their advisers to achieve practical solutions, whether in a single location or across multiple jurisdictions.

This publication is intended only to provide a summary of the subject matter covered. It does not purport to be comprehensive or to provide legal advice. No person should act in reliance on any statement contained in this publication without first obtaining specific professional advice.

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