

MALTA PLEASURE YACHT REGISTRATION

FLAG

Largest registry in Europe

REGISTRY GROSS TONNAGE

Over 57 million

COMPLIANT

In line with EU laws &
international conventions

VESSEL REGISTRATION

Registration in 3-5 days

ACCESSIBILITY & EMERGENCY

24/7 registry services

FAST & SIMPLE

Straightforward Procedure



CHETCUTI CAUCHI
ADVOCATES

ccmalta.com/yachting



MALTA

The island nation of Malta has, since time immemorial, been wedded to the maritime sector. The geographic position of Malta in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea, at the borderline between North Africa and Europe and halfway between the straits of Gibraltar and Suez has aided in making the country a natural interconnector and a hub for maritime activities. Yet, Malta offers more than a strategic location!

Particularly, Malta is considered a world leader in the registration of pleasure yachts and super-yachts mainly due to logistical as well as legal advantages. The registry has maintained its positive reputation for its straightforward procedures for yacht registration, provisional registration of a pleasure yacht obtainable within three to five days. Whilst enjoying competitive registration and renewal fees, a twenty-four hour, seven days a week service is guaranteed, utterly useful in emergency situations.

Having English as an official language, and being part of the European Union, renders the Maltese registration both efficient and effective. Malta is signatory to all major conventions issued by IMO, ILO and UN amongst others, and actively applies/implements EU and international regulations and directives.

LEGAL BASIS

Registration of pleasure yachts in Malta is regulated by the Merchant Shipping Act 1973 and subsidiary legislation enacted thereunder, which incorporates the majority of laws which regulate this sector. Based on Common Law, the Act has been amended several times to reflect changes in maritime trends, conventions and regulations.

There are two main registries in Malta:

- the Small Ship Registry and
- the Merchant Shipping Directorate.

Any vessel which is less than 24 metres in length employed solely in the navigation within the territorial waters of Malta is to be registered under the Small Ship Registry, whilst vessels registered within the Merchant Shipping Directorate are free to roam within international waters.

On the regulatory side, Malta has a body of maritime laws that provide a solid, reputable and financier friendly environment, including:

- the flexibility of catering for the needs of all types of vessels, from pleasure yachts to oil rigs, including vessels still under construction;
- the absence of restrictions on the nationality of the master, officers and crew engaged on Malta flagged vessels; and
- a secure mortgage system, which has been greatly accepted by banks and financial institutions, therefore, facilitating the attainment of finance for yacht purchases. Maltese law provides for executive/administrative powers that mortgagees may resort to over the mortgaged vessel and the possibility to sell the vessel privately (not through sale by auction) in cases of default. Additionally, special protection is afforded to mortgagees and privileged creditors in the context of bankruptcy or insolvency of the owner of the vessel in that vessels are granted a special status being separate and distinct assets within the estate of their owner. This status allows any arrest or enforcement against the vessel by mortgagees or privileged creditors of maritime claims to proceed irrespective of the bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings.

BENEFITS



Types:
All Types of Yachts
are Registrable



Allows Worldwide
Navigation



Low Registration
Costs



Few Requirements



24/7 Registry
Service



Crew:
No Nationality
Restrictions



ELIGIBILITY

Vessels

All types of vessels can be registered in Malta including oilrigs, platforms and barges. Hulls and vessels under construction can also be registered under the Malta flag.

Ownership

Under Maltese law the following persons can register a yacht in Malta without further requirements:

- a Maltese person or entity;
- any other EU, EEA or Swiss citizen resident in Malta.

The following persons are also eligible to register a yacht in Malta subject to the appointment of a resident agent, that is, a person who is habitually resident in Malta or a Maltese entity that will act as a representative of the owner:

- an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen not resident in Malta; and/or
- a foreign company as approved by the registrar.

Provisional registration for pleasure yachts allows the free sailing of the yacht and is valid for a period of 6 months during which the registrant would need to undertake the remaining necessary steps and provide the remaining required documentation to the registry for the finalization of the registration process and attainment of permanent registration.

The 6 months period can be extended, should this be necessary.

Permanent Registration

- evidence of seaworthiness needs to be provided through a survey of the yacht undertaken by a recognised surveyor;
- radio inspection must be undertaken, if required;
- provision of international tonnage certificate for yachts over 24 metres must be provided; and
- recognised surveyors must confirm that the vessel is marked in accordance to law.

The registration certificate is renewed annually and renewal fees payable are dependant on the tonnage and age of the yacht.

PROCEDURE

The registration procedure is essentially divided into two - provisional and permanent registration.

Provisional Registration

In order to obtain provision registration, the following steps would need to be undertaken:

- name reservation;
- application is submitted by the owner/s or their representatives;
- proof of ownership is provided generally through a bill of sale;
- proof that the applicant is eligible is provided depending on whether the applicant is a body corporate or an individual (EU/Non-EU) and that a resident agent has been appointed where required;
- an application for radio station licence is undertaken; and
- the official registration fees dependant on the tonnage and age of the vessel are paid.

KEY REQUIREMENTS



Pleasure
(non-commercial) Use



Eligible Owner:
Maltese or International Owner



Proof of Ownership:
Bill of Sale



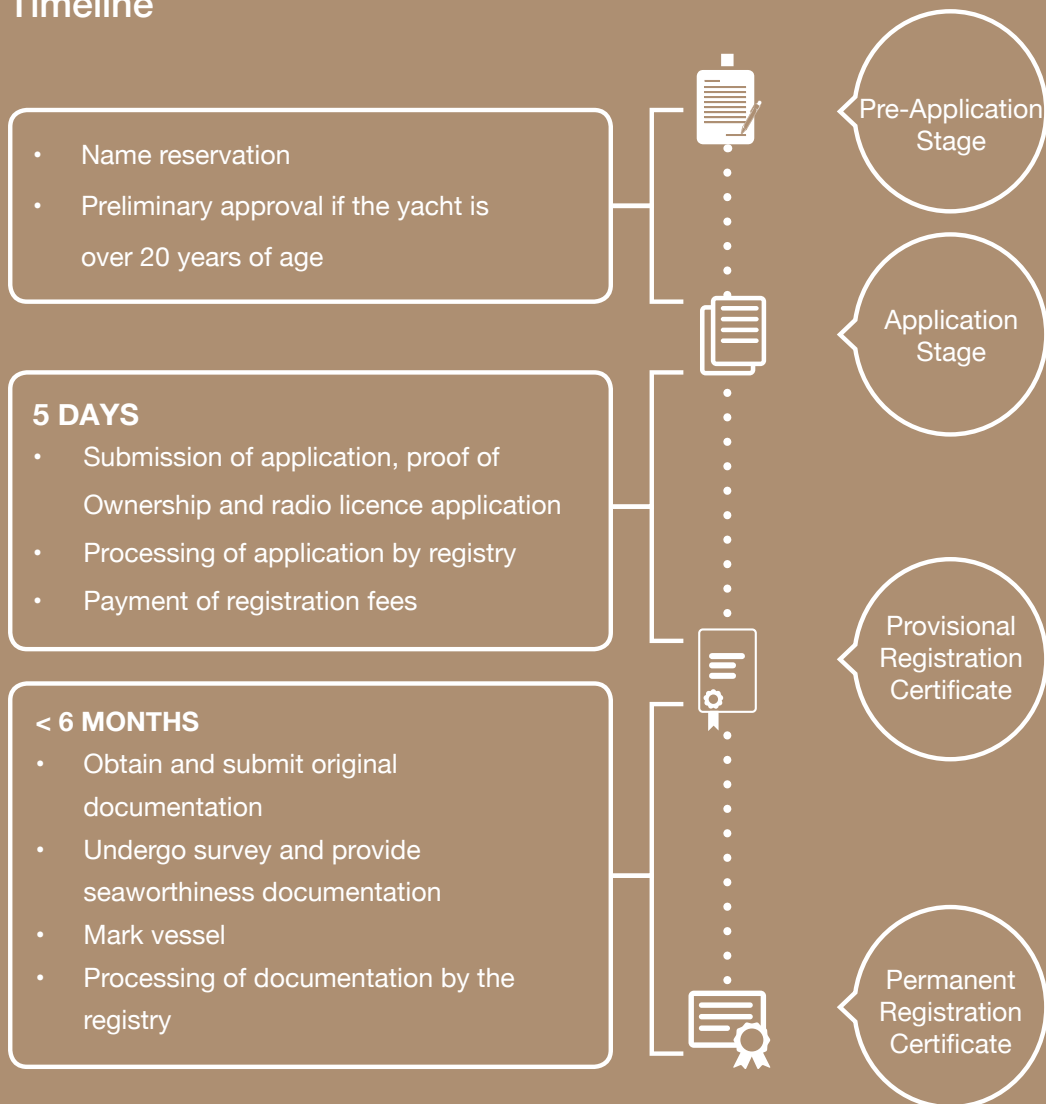
Seaworthiness:
Survey Report



Tonnage Tax Certificate:
for +24m Yachts

MALTA PLEASURE YACHT REGISTRATION

Timeline



WHY WORK WITH US?



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