



# UK PLEASURE YACHT REGISTRATION

UK Yacht Registration

## FLAG

British Red Ensign 7th largest in the world

## REGISTRATION VALIDITY:

5 years

## ACCESSIBILITY & EMERGENCY:

24 hours registry and dedicated customer services

## PRESTIGE

The oldest and most prestigious shipping register

## TONNAGE REGISTERED

British Red Ensign fleet 50 million+

## SAFETY & SECURITY

Consular assistance and Royal Naval Protection



CHETCUTI CAUCHI  
ADVOCATES

[ccmalta.com/yachting](https://ccmalta.com/yachting)



## THE UK FLAG

Being one of the most admired and well-known emblems on the high seas, the flag of the British Merchant Navy, known as the Red Ensign or the Red Duster, manifests a reputation for maintaining the highest international standards.

Established by an act of King George III in 1785 and nowadays being part of the British Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA), the UK Ship Register consistently strives for excellence ensuring, on one hand, that the Red Ensign keeps being attractive, whilst securing that its vessels fully comply with flag state obligations without major disruptions and expenses to the owners.

Bringing together a reliable and cost-effective legislation and procedures, the UK flag hovers amongst the best-performing flags in the major Port State Control regimes. The UK flag holds an international reputation for expert advice and guidance with a proactive leading role at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), EU and Quality Shipping Committees.

It provides for a 24/7 vessel and mortgage premium registration services, a 24/7 dedicated customer services and duty surveyors which assist clients before, throughout and after registration. Yet, registration, survey and certification costs are between the lowest available with no annual renewal fees, as the validity period of the registration of pleasure vessels is 5 years. Vessels flying the British Red Ensign enjoy consular assistance and Royal Naval Protection (dependent on availability of assets and/or nature of the threat).

Such a structure not only ensures a smooth and effortless registration process but also builds a long-term relationship upon which the clients' needs and the expectations of a quality flag are met.

## LEGAL BASIS

Vessel registration in the United Kingdom is regulated by the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, as amended, and the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships) Regulations 1993, as amended.

The UK Ship Register is divided into four parts:

- Part I - the traditional Register of British Ships;
- Part II - Register of Fishing Vessels;
- Part III - Small Ships Register (SSR); and
- Part IV - Register of Ships bareboat chartered-in by British charterers.

Pleasure yachts are eligible to register on either Part I or Part III, which have different eligibility criteria and requirements. Whereas the Part III (Small Ship Register) is designed for owners who only aim to prove the nationality of their yacht when sailing outside UK territorial waters, providing a simple form of non-title registration, Part I (UK Ship Register) operates as fully public register providing a legal title to the vessel, proof of ownership and record details of any mortgages on the yacht, and from which any person can obtain a transcript of its entries.



24/7 Registry  
Service



Consular Assistance  
and Royal Naval  
Protection



International Prestige and  
Reputation



Low Registration  
Costs



No Annual Renewal  
Fees





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## ELIGIBILITY

The following mainly qualify to register a pleasure yacht in the UK under Part I:

- British citizens, British Dependant Territories citizens, British Overseas citizens;
- EU citizens on the basis of the freedom of movement and establishment principles;
- bodies corporate incorporated in a EEA State;
- bodies corporate incorporated in any relevant British possession and having their principal place of business in the United Kingdom or in any such possession; and
- European Economic Interest Groupings registered in the United Kingdom

In those cases where qualifying registrants are not resident in the UK, a resident representative must be appointed.

- in case of the Small Ships Register (Part III), the same qualifying factors apply, except that only natural persons may register a yacht. Additionally: Commonwealth citizens can also apply for registration under Part III;
- the yacht must be less than 24 metres long; and
- the owner of the yacht must also be ordinarily resident in the UK, that is, must live in the UK for at least 185 days in any 12-month period.

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## PROCEDURE

The process for a new registration of a pleasure yacht under the UK Ship Register (Part1) overall involves:

- the submission of a yacht registration form to provide the register with the necessary information to check if the yacht and the owner are eligible for UK registration;
- following a successful confirmation of eligibility, the filing of the application to register supported by the necessary documentation;
- the evidencing of five years title. For vessels under five years old, title from the builder's certificate to the current bill of sale would need to be shown;
- the commissioning for Tonnage and Measurement Survey. The survey must be completed by a surveyor from a class/certifying authority and the certificate must be issued with a 12-month period of the application to register;
- for yachts over 24m load line/registered length, the provision of the UK International Tonnage Certificate (ITC). The ITC must be completed by a surveyor from a certifying authority; and
- the evidencing that the yacht has been duly carved and marked according to Carving and Marking Note issued by the registry, which must be then signed, dated and stamped by a recognised surveyor.

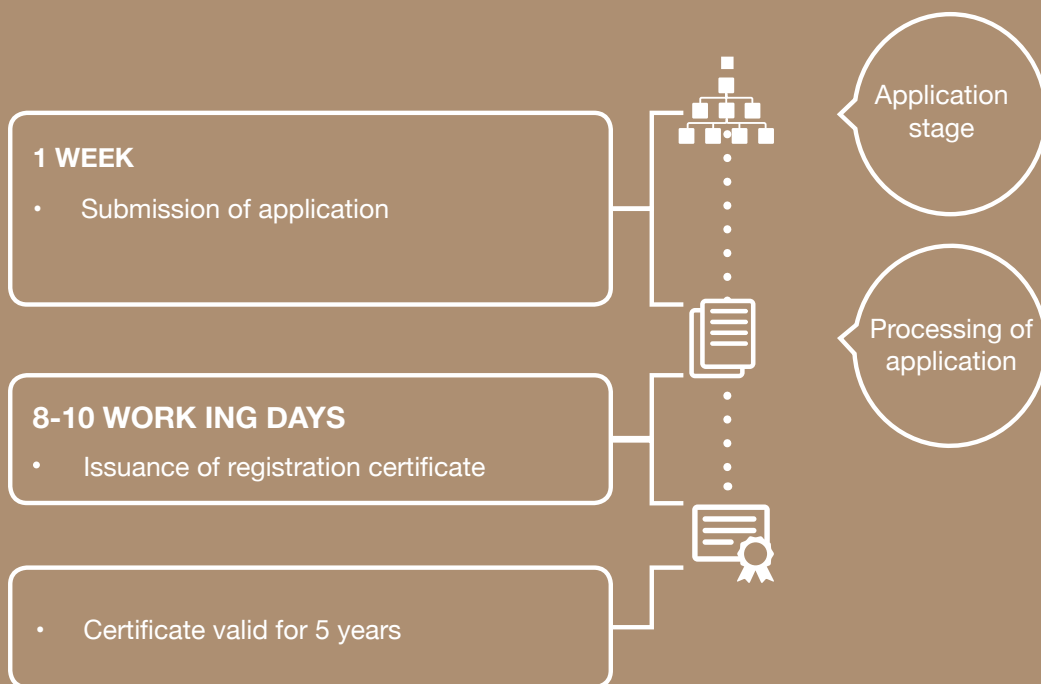
In relation to a Part I registration should the yacht be outside the British Islands, the owner may apply to the registrar for provisional registration.

The procedure for registration under the Small Ship Register, the other hand, is more straightforward requiring the provision of a description of the yacht, yacht details leave this and a declaration that the owner is eligible to be owner of a British Ship and that the yacht is entitled to registration due to British connection.



# UK PLEASURE YACHT REGISTRATION

## Timeline



## WHY WORK WITH US?



Success Rate:  
Problem Solving,  
Integrity, Honesty



We're lawyers  
Maximum  
Confidentiality



20 Years of  
Experience in  
Maritime Law



Malta-Cyprus  
Lawyers,  
Tax advisors,  
Fiduciary staff: 100+



Our Ethos:  
Small firm personal,  
Big firm expertise



CHETCUTI CAUCHI  
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