

GUIDANCE NOTE 03/2023 (Rev 01)

CHANGE OF FLAG OR OWNERSHIP OF PLEASURE YACHTS AT SEA

To: OWNERS, OPERATORS AND MASTERS OF PLEASURE YACHTS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Our Registration team are often informed that change of flag or change of ownership of a yacht will be undertaken at sea in international waters before returning to port. However, it is important that the Technical team (technical@cishipping.com) are also made aware of such intentions to help avert any port state control interventions.
- 1.2 Changing Flag or Ownership at sea creates some logistical and regulatory challenges in terms of following registration, survey and certification procedures and convention requirements, although modern communications and the digitalisation of certificates has alleviated some of these.
- 1.3 The purpose of this guidance notice is to set out Cayman Registry (CISR) policy for the management of change of flag or ownership at sea of pleasure yachts in private use.
- 1.4 'Commercial Vessels' are not covered in this guidance notice due to the more complex coordination required between all parties in the lead up to a change of flag and/or ownership. Guidance will be provided for such vessels on a case-by-case basis, but it is expected that ISM Management Companies are well versed in such matters.
- 1.5 Only the steps for change of flag have been listed but they also serve as a guide for changes of ownership, and change in name or port, although less steps are applicable.

2. STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN ADVANCE OF CHANGE OF FLAG

- 2.1.1 The following should have been arranged in advance: -
 - 2.1.1.1 All existing statutory certification to be submitted to the Registration team for review by the Technical team; see [CISR Guide on Certification](#) (Form 3911)
 - 2.1.1.2 Assignment of MMSI number from radio licencing authority [Ofreg](#)
 - 2.1.1.3 Insurance 'blue cards' (i.e., P&I, Wreck and Bunker), where applicable.

- 2.1.4 Method for temporarily marking the new port and name (as applicable) on the stern
- 2.1.5 A Cayman Islands red ensign
- 2.1.6 If the Recognized Organization (Class) surveyor is unable to complete change of flag surveys, in accordance with IACS PR 28, ahead of the Certificate of British Registry (CoBR) being issued, arrangements are to be in place for the Class surveyor to attend the vessel upon arrival at the next port.

3. DELEGATION, SAMPLE CERTIFICATES AND VERIFICATION

- 3.1 The following steps should be taken at the earliest opportunity upon change of Flag and prior to entering the next port.
 - 3.1.1 CISR Registration team to issue endorsement certificates for Wreck and Bunker concurrently with the CoBR, where applicable.
 - 3.1.2 New port and name (as applicable) to be temporarily marked on the stern.
 - 3.1.3 Cayman Islands red ensign to be hoisted.
 - 3.1.4 Automatic Identification System (AIS) to be update with any new static data (i.e., port, name, MMSI number), where applicable.
 - 3.1.5 Change MMSI number in VHF, MF/HF DSC radiotelephones.
 - 3.1.6 EPIRB registry to be informed of changes.
 - 3.1.7 CISR Technical team to issue an e-notice (email) stating that all statutory documentation has been reviewed, accepted and will be re-issued upon arrival at next port when the Recognised Organization surveyor has completed change of flag surveys in accordance with IACS PR 28; unless such surveys were carried out in advance of the CoBR being used, in which case electronic certificates can be issued as soon as the Official Number and Call Sign has been assigned.

4 RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATION (RO) INSTRUCTIONS

- 4.1 '*RO Instructions for Change of Name or Cayman Port*' and '*RO Instructions for Change of Flag – Pleasure Yacht Not Engaged in Trade*' can be found in Appendix 6 and 8, respectively, of the [CISR Instructions to Recognized Organizations and their Surveyors](#).