

GUIDANCE NOTE 04/2026 (Rev.1.0)

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY FLAG NOTATIONS FOR YACHTS

To: OWNERS, BROKERS, LAWYERS, INSURANCE COMPANIES, CAPTAINS, SURVEYORS, MANAGERS, BUILDERS, DESIGNERS, AND RECOGNISED ORGANIZATIONS.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Red Ensign Group (REG) Yacht Code establishes the minimum mandatory requirements for yachts in commercial use.
- 1.2 The REG Yacht Code is also commonly specified by builders or buyers of yachts intended for private use. This provides a safe platform for the Owner, his/her family and friends, as well as to enhance the re-sale value.
- 1.3 Through discussions with yacht Owners, it became evident that many are not fully aware of the minimum requirements in the Code and would have opted for an even higher safety standard in several areas if they had been offered the option at the contract stage.
- 1.4 Furthermore, insurers would benefit from knowing if a vessel exceeded the minimum mandatory requirements when assessing risk and determining the insurance premium.
- 1.5 To this end Cayman Registry has developed a National Annex to the REG Yacht Code to permit the assignment of Additional Voluntary Flag Notations (see **Annex 1** to this guidance note). The initial focus is on some key safety matters, but the list will be expanded in due course to cover other areas of interest such as crew accommodation, since crew welfare and turnover is also of concern to our Owners.
- 1.6 The notations will be included in the REG Yacht Code Statement of Compliance issued at build for yachts under Cayman Registry supervision.
- 1.7 Existing vessels may also request this notation to be added to their REG Yacht Code Statement or Certificate of Compliance if they meet the requirements.
- 1.8 The Cayman Registry National Annex to the REG Yacht Code is included in our 'Instructions to Recognized Organizations and their Surveyors' (CIGN02/2025), as amended. The compliance verification is fully delegated to the yacht's Classification Society.
- 1.9 We hereby recommend Owners, and their representatives, consider including compliance with the additional voluntary flag notations in their yacht building specification to enhance the vessel's safety and crew welfare.

2. ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY FLAG NOTATIONS FOR YACHTS

The current additional voluntary flag notations are as follows: -

- **Fire Safety+**
This will be assigned to a yacht <500GT* provided with a sprinkler system protecting the accommodation and service spaces. Currently such spaces in this vessel category are only provided with a fixed fire detection system (i.e. heat and smoke detectors) and portable fire extinguishers.
- **Passive Fire Protection+**
This will be assigned to a short-range yacht (SRY) <500GT** that complies with the structural fire protection requirements for unrestricted service yachts (i.e. 60 minutes fire containment in the engine room and petrol storage/petrol vehicle spaces instead of the usual 30 minutes for SRYs, and 30 minutes fire containment in the galley as opposed to no minimum requirement for SRYs).
- **Survivability+**
This will be assigned to a short-range yacht (SRY) <500GT whose stability booklet includes compliance with damage stability criteria. Currently this vessel category is not required to remain afloat in the event of damage or flooding.
- **Seaworthiness+**
This will be assigned to a yacht whose stability booklet includes compliance with severe weather criteria.
- **Weight Growth+**
This will be assigned to a yacht whose stability booklet has a future weight growth margin exceeding 5% of the yacht's lightweight (i.e. the empty weight; no tank liquids, stores, toys or persons).

For newbuild projects we recommend that the Owner's advisors and representatives (i.e. brokers, captains, surveyors, technical managers and lawyers) raise awareness of the above optional notations to the Owner well ahead of contract signing, so that the yacht builder has sufficient time to evaluate the additional cost. Any plan appraisal and survey time incurred by the yacht's Classification Society in verifying the above will form part of this additional cost as their contract is with the yacht builder.

*This notation will not be assigned to a short-range yacht in the 300-499GT size bracket that has been fitted with a sprinkler to comply with the mandatory requirements of Part A, Table 14A.1.

**Short range yachts are vessels restricted to operating within 60 nautical miles of a safe haven.



ANNEX 1

INSTRUCTIONS TO RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR SURVEYORS

CAYMAN REGISTRY'S NATIONAL ANNEX TO THE RED ENSIGN GROUP (REG) YACHT CODE

Additional Voluntary Flag Notations for Yachts

The current additional voluntary flag notations are as follows: -

- **Fire Safety+**
This will be assigned to any yacht* <500GT provided with a sprinkler system in the accommodation and services spaces that complies with section 14A.8 'Fixed Fire-Extinguishing Systems' of the REG Yacht Code 2024, as amended.

*This notation will not be assigned to a short-range yacht in the 300-499GT size bracket that has been fitted a sprinkler to comply with the mandatory requirements of Part A, Table 14A.1
- **Passive Fire Protection +**
This will be assigned to a short-range yacht (SRY) <500GT that complies with the structural fire protection requirements for "unrestricted" service yachts, as provided in section 14A.2(3) 'Structural Fire Protection' of the REG Yacht Code 2024, as amended.
- **Survivability+**
This will be assigned to short range yachts <500GT whose stability booklet includes compliance with the damage stability criteria in section 11.3 'Damage Stability' of the REG Yacht Code 2024, as amended.
- **Seaworthiness+**
This will be assigned to a yacht whose stability booklet includes compliance with Part A section 2.3 'Severe wind and rolling criterion' of the IMO Code on Intact Stability, 2008 (IS Code).
- **Weight Growth+**
This will be assigned to a yacht whose stability booklet has a future weight growth margin exceeding 5% of the lightweight; to be confirmed at the initial survey and re-confirmed at 5-year intervals.