

GUIDANCE NOTE 10/2026 (Rev.1.0)**YACHT NAME LEGIBILITY**

To: OWNERS, CAPTAINS, and MANAGERS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is common practice in the yacht industry to affix bespoke yacht name decals/name boards to the stern of the vessel, often at significant cost.
- 1.2 Cayman Registry frequently is asked 'to take a view' on the legibility of a yacht name either at the artwork design stage or on delivery of a yacht. However, they may change without our knowledge during refits.
- 1.3 The legibility is often very subjective, even when the vessel's name is known, and so acceptance by a Cayman Registry or Classification Society Surveyor may not prevent issues with the authorities that have jurisdiction over the waters the vessel is operating in.
- 1.4 The yacht's name should be clearly discernable for the following reasons:-
 - legal requirements
 - emergency and collision avoidance communications; other ships must be able identify the vessel and make contact via VHF radio
 - accident/incident reporting by small boat users or shoreside public
 - port authority or coast guard controls
- 1.5 Whilst the Automatic Identification System (AIS) is a useful advancement in vessel identification this system is not available to all interested parties and is not required on all vessels.
- 1.6 The detailed requirements for 'Marking of Ship' can be found under section 14 of the [Cayman Islands Merchant Shipping Act, 2024](#).

2. ACTION REQUIRED

- 2.1 When the Owner is working with their graphic designer, they should solicit opinions of several persons who do not know the name of the vessel to ascertain whether the name is unanimously discernible from the artwork. Failure to do so may cause the 'Carving and Marking' note of a newly registering vessel (or a vessel changing name) to be rejected, or may result in enforcement action by the authority that has jurisdiction over the waters the vessel is operating in.
- 2.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the design of decals/nameboards with unusual type font or styling may be presented to the technical@cishipping.com for review prior to ordering or installation.