GUIDANCE NOTE
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GUIDANCE NOTE 11/2026 (Rev.1.3)

REGISTRATION - VESSEL TYPES

To: OWNERS and their AUTHORISED PERSONS.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 When an Owner or their Authorised Person registers a vessel using CISR Form 856, the 'Type of Ship' must be recorded.

1.2 In some instances, the submitted description does not accurately reflect the vessel's actual function.

1.3 To this end Annex A provides guidance on the available options as of 1st December 2026.

1.4 Vessels which are currently registered with a different description may remain the same until any change to the registered details is requested.

Annex A

Merchant Vessels	
Bulk Carrier	
Cargo High-Speed Craft	
Chemical Tanker	
Combination Carrier	
Container Ship	
Dredger	
Gas Carrier	
General Cargo Ship	
Cruise Passenger Ship	
Liquified Gas Carrier	
Methanol/Chemical Tanker	
Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit	
Non Propelled Barge	
Offshore Supply Vessel	
Oil Tanker	
Oil/Chemical Tanker	
Ore Carrier	
Passenger Ship	
Passenger High-Speed Craft	
Refrigerated Cargo Carrier	
Research Vessel	
RoRo Cargo Ship	
RoRo Passenger Ship	
Special Purpose Ship	Research vessels, offshore supply vessels, icebreakers, training ships and cable layers.
Tug	

Submersibles	
Submersible Craft	
Passenger Submersible Craft	

Local Vessels (Cayman waters)	
Local Fishing Vessel	
Local Passenger Vessel	

Pleasure Vessels and their Support Vessels	
Large Commercial Yacht	Commercial yachts ≥24m load line length and carrying no more than 12 passengers. Certified to the REG Yacht Code Part A.
Large Yacht Engaged in Trade	Commercial yachts ≥24m load line length and carrying no more than 12 passengers whilst operating under the 'Yacht Engaged in Trade (YET)' programme. Certified to the REG Yacht Code Part A.
Pleasure Yacht	Yachts of any size carrying no more than 12 passengers in private use or in commercial use in jurisdictions where there is no requirement to have 'commercial' registration. Certified to the UK Sport or Pleasure Vessel Code or REG Yacht Code Part A or Auxiliary Tender requirements, as appropriate, if used commercially.
Commercial Passenger Yacht	Commercial yacht ≥24m load line length and carrying between 12 and 36 passengers. Certified to the REG Yacht Code Part B.
Private Passenger Ship	Private pleasure passenger ship ≥24m load line length, with a full SOLAS Passenger Ship Safety Certificate.
Private Passenger Yacht	Private pleasure yacht ≥24m load line length and carrying between 12 and 36 passengers. Certified to the REG Yacht Code Part B.
Passenger Yacht Engaged in Trade	Commercial yacht ≥24m load line length and carrying between 12 and 36 passengers whilst operating under the 'Yacht Engaged in Trade (YET)' programme. Certified to the REG Yacht Code Part B.
Commercial Yacht Support Vessel	A vessel ≥24m load line length supporting a commercial yacht. Typically carrying any of the following: - tenders, toys, helicopters, special personnel and mother vessel replenishments. Certified to either the REG Yacht Code or IMO SPS Code, or as a SOLAS 'Cargo Ship', as appropriate.
Private Yacht Support Vessel	A private vessel ≥24m load line length, with accommodation for no more than 12 passengers, supporting another private pleasure yacht.
Small Commercial Yacht	Vessel <24m load line length. To be certified to the UK Sport or Pleasure Vessel Code.
Work Boat	Vessel <24m load line length. To be certified to the UK Work Boat Code.
Sport Fishing Boat	Private pleasure use only.
Commercial Sport Fishing Boat	Vessel <24m load line length. To be certified to the UK Sport or Pleasure Vessel Code.
Dive Boat	Private pleasure use only.
Commercial Dive Boat	Vessel <24m load line length. To be certified to the UK Sport or Pleasure Vessel Code.