

# GUIDE TO SHIP AND YACHT REGISTRATION IN SEYCHELLES

## CONTENTS

PREFACE	1
1. The Seychelles Shipping Register	2
2. Eligibility	2
3. Classification Societies	2
4. Registration Procedure	3
5. Fee Structure	4

## PREFACE

This Guide has been produced as an aid to those seeking general information with respect to ship registration in Seychelles. It is designed to serve as a starting-point for a more detailed and comprehensive discussion of the substantive legal and regulatory issues involved. The Guide should not be used as a substitute for professional advice.

We recognise that this Guide will not completely answer detailed questions which clients and their advisers may have; it is not intended to be comprehensive. If any such questions arise in relation to the contents, they may be addressed to any member of the Seychelles office, using the [contact information](#) provided at the end of this Guide.

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Mahe, Seychelles

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## 1. THE SEYCHELLES SHIPPING REGISTER

Registration of ships and yachts is governed by the Seychelles Merchant Shipping Act, 1992 (as amended) (the **SMSA**). With the recent development of a luxury marina on Eden Island off the coast of Mahe, the attractive registration laws and the year-round stable weather conditions, Seychelles is the obvious choice for luxury vessel<sup>1</sup> registration.

For the purposes of this Guide “vessel” includes a ship or yacht as these words are used interchangeably in the SMSA and related application forms.

Seychelles is party to a number of international conventions related to shipping including:

- the Collisions Convention
- the Load Line Convention
- the Safety Convention
- the Conventions of the International Maritime Organisation

Seychelles is member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the group of non-aligned countries, the Indian Ocean Commission, and the International Maritime Organization, and vessels flying the Seychelles flag benefit from friendly treatment worldwide.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

For a vessel to be eligible for registration under the Seychelles flag it must be wholly owned by:

- either a Seychelles citizen; or
- a Seychelles Body Corporate established either as an International Business Company (**IBC**) with the Seychelles Financial Services Authority (**FSA**), or as a domestic company with the Registrar of Companies.

The vessel must not be older than 15 years. However, if the vessel is older, (note that the absolute age limit is 25 years), the vessel will be considered to be able to register if the owner of the vessel can produce necessary builders’ certificates and documentation that proves that the ship has been serviced / repaired / maintained according to international standards.

## 3. CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

The present recognised and authorised classification societies by the Seychelles Ship Registrar are listed below:

- Lloyd’s Register of Shipping (UK)
- Bureau Veritas (France)
- Nippon Kaiji Ryokai (Japan)
- Det Norske Veritas (Norway)
- America Bureau of Shipping (USA)
- Germanischer Lloyd (Germany)
- Registro Italiano Naval (Italy)
- Croatian Register of Shipping (Croatia)

<sup>1</sup> “Vessel” is defined in the SMSA as including any ship, boat, sailing vessel, or other description of vessel used in navigation – whereas “Ship” and “Yacht” are not specifically defined.

- Korean Registry of Shipping (Korea)
- China Classification Society (China)
- Russian Maritime Registry of Ships (Russia)
- Indian Registry of Shipping (India)

#### 4. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

If the vessel is not in Seychelles waters, it can be provisionally registered under a Seychelles flag at a diplomatic or consular representative abroad. It will later be permanently registered with the Seychelles Ship Registrar.

A vessel is usually registered for an initial period of 90 days, extendable for another 90 days. Once all documents have been submitted and all requirements met, as described below, the vessel can be provisionally registered.

During this period the vessel owner may wish to permanently register the vessel. No other fees will have to be paid if such registration is done in the 90-day period that the vessel is registered provisionally. Only annual fees are then payable.

If the vessel is registered under a body corporate, a certified copy of the Certificate of Incorporation is required. Such incorporation can either be done as an IBC or as a domestic company from whom the necessary documents can be procured.

The vessel owners, or companies managing the vessel will represent additional information that is required by the Ship Registrar in the various forms that have to be filled out.

##### 4.1 Particulars required for provisional registration of a vessel:

- (a) Application for Registration of Ship as Seychelles Ship, official number and call sign.
- (b) A certificate signed by the builder of the vessel and containing: i) a description of the vessel; ii) the estimated tonnage of the vessel; iii) the date and place of construction of the vessel; and iv) the name of the person, if any, on whose account the vessel was built.
- (c) Where the vessel has been registered under the law of a foreign country, a Certificate of Deletion as evidence that registration in that country has ceased.
- (d) Evidence that the applicant is the owner of the vessel, through a Declaration of Ownership (must have signatories and the stamp of the notary agents/lawyer).
- (e) Certificate of Incorporation if a Seychelles Body Corporate owns the vessel.
- (f) A list of not less than three alternative names, numbered and in order of performance, under which the vessel is proposed to be registered.
- (g) Telecoms/Radio licence, which requires to be approved by the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications from the Seychelles Licensing authority (**SLA**) (NB the vessel needs to be registered before the SLA can issue the Radio Licence).
- (h) Application for activation of Maritime Mobile Earth Station.

##### 4.2 The advantages of registering a vessel in Seychelles are:

- (a) Exemption from all business taxes, work permits and social security contributions for non-Seychellois personnel.
- (b) No tax is paid on the salaries of officers and crew of Seychelles vessel which operate in international waters.
- (c) Ownership of vessel can be 100% foreign.

- (d) When registering a second vessel within 12 months of the first registration, owners of vessels are entitled to a rebate of 30% on the second.
- (e) No publication of identity of principals.
- (f) No tax on the profits by an IBC which owns vessels under the Seychelles flag and operates in international waters. Further no tax on the dividends paid by the IBC.
- (g) No tax is paid on the sale or transfer of a Seychelles vessel or of the shares in its own company.

#### 4.3 Permanent registration of vessels:

After the 90-day period, or after the expiry of the extension of the registration certificate, the vessel can be permanently registered at no extra cost.

Where the vessel is a cargo ship, the vessel owner must submit the following statutory certificates and documents:

- certificate of class;
- cargo ship safety equipment certificate;
- cargo ship safety construction certificate;
- international oil pollution certificate;
- minimum safe manning certificate;
- load line certificate;
- GMDSS safety radio certificate;
- declaration of transfer;
- bill of sale.

Where the vessel is a yacht, the yacht owner must submit the following documents:

- (a) Application for Permanent Registration under Section 23 of the SMSA signed by the attorney of the Seychelles company;
- (b) bill of sale;
- (c) statutory certificates issued by the classification society;
- (d) carving and marking note which is used by the Registrar of Shipping on deposit of (b) and (c) above duly signed and sealed by the vessel's classification society.

#### 5. FEE STRUCTURE

The fee structure is designed to attract fleet registration. Moreover owners registering a second vessel or more within 12 months of first registration are entitled to a rebate of 30% on registered vessels.

The following is a guide on the fee structure for ship registration – subject to confirmation upon time of application:

Initial Fees	USD
0 - 9,999 Gross Tons (GRT)	1.00/GRT with a minimum of 500
10,000 - 49,999 GRT	10,000 plus USD0.45/GRT for each ton in excess of

	10,000GRT
50,000 Gross tons or more	30,000 plus USD0.20/GT for each ton in excess of 50,000 GT

Annual Fees	USD
0 -1,599 Gross Tons	0.50 / GT
1,600 - 4,999 Gross Tons	0.40 / GT
5,000 - 9,999 Gross Tons	0.20 / GT
10,000 or more Gross Tons	0.10 / GT

Mortgages	USD
Mortgage Registration	300.00
Transfer of Mortgage	200.00
Cancellation of Mortgage	100.00

### 5.1 Cost of statutory certificates

Once all the documents have been submitted and fees have been paid for provisional registration, the Ship Registrar will issue the following certificates, depending on the type.

	USD
Certificate of Provisional Registration	150.00
International Tonnage Certificate (if Applicable)	150.00
Minimum Safe Manning Certificate	150.00
Ships Carving and Marking Note	150.00
Change of Name Certificate (if applicable)	150.00
Certificate of Parallel Registry (if applicable)	150.00
Provisional Certificate of Registry	150.00
International Loadline Certificate (if applicable)	150.00
International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (if applicable)	150.00

International Fishing Safety Certificate (if applicable)	150.00
Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (if applicable)	150.00
Deletion Certificate (if applicable)	150.00

## 5.2 The registration fees for vessels are:

	USD
Initial Registration Fee	500.00
Annual Fees*	300.00
Certificate of Registry	150.00 (valid for 5 years)

\*The annual fee of USD300 is payable before the 31st January of each year

For more specific advice on ship and yacht registration in Seychelles, we invite you to contact:

### Seychelles

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For the convenience of clients in other time zones, a list of contacts available in each of our jurisdictions may be found [here](#).