

**REGISTRATION OF MERCHANT SHIPS  
(PLEASURE VESSELS) REGULATIONS, 1991**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**NO. 148 of 1991**

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**STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS**

**NO. 148 of 1991**

*Regulations made by the Attorney General in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 24 of the Registration of Merchant Ships Act, 1980 (32 of 1989), and all other powers thereunto him enabling.*

*(Gazetted 16<sup>th</sup> November,*

*1991.)*

**WHEREAS** it is necessary, for the efficient operation of the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize to make rules to Ensure that all pleasure vessels registered in Belize are so constructed, equipped and inspected as to highest standards of safety of life at Sea;

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREY BY PROVIDED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. These regulations may be cited as the Short title  
  
**REGISTRATION OF MERCHANT SHIPS  
(PLEASURE VESSELS) REGULATIONS, 1991**
2. Subject to Regulation 4, these Regulation shall apply to all Application  
pleasure craft registered by IMMARBE and which are six meters in length or more.
3. For the purpose of these Regulations Interpretation \_\_\_\_\_  
  
“approved” means approved by
  - (i) IMMARBE
  - (ii) Traditional Maritime Administrations which are members of IMO and which have national provisions for the approval of types of equipment;

(iii) organizations recognized by Belize;

**IMMARBE** the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize established under Section 3 of the Act;

**I.M.O.** means the International Maritime Organization;

“machinery” includes an inboard or outboard engine and any other type of motor or mechanical device capable of propelling a vessel;

“motorboat” means any vessel propelled by machinery of 20 meters (or 65.5 feet) in length or less;

“motor vessel” means any vessel propelled by machinery over 20 meters in length;

“operator” means the person who operates or is in charge of the navigation of a vessel;

“owner” means the person or company claiming lawful possession of a vessel by virtue of a legal title or equitable interest which would entitle one to such a status;

“recognized organization” means a classification society or other organization duly recognized by **IMMARBE** to carry out the survey and issuance of certificates under these Regulations;

“sailboat” means a vessel, whether or not equipped with an auxiliary engine, which propelled by the wind effect on the sail;

“vessel” means every type or description of craft, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water and engaged in leisure activities and includes but is not limited to boats, motorboats, powerboats, sailboats, cruisers and motor vessels.

“Length” refers to overall length of the hull, extending from end to end over the deck excluding sheer, measured in a straight line from the foremost part to the aftermost part of a vessel.

(Bowsprits, bumpkins, rudders, outboard motor brackets and similar fittings or attachments are not to be included in the measurement).

4. **IMMARBE** or any person so designated, may issue exemptions from any of the provisions of these Regulations on terms and conditions it may consider appropriate.

**Exemption**

5. There shall be on board every vessel all legal and technical documents such as registration certificate, radio permit or license, tax receipts, tonnage certificate, etc. These documents shall at all times be available for inspection upon request.

**Documents**

6. In case of collision, fire or other causality, an operator shall report all facts and information relating to same as soon as possible to **IMMARBE**.

**Accidents**

7. The number of officers and crew on board shall be in accordance with the laws of Belize, as applied to the type and size of vessels.

**Manning**

8. \_\_\_(1) The survey of yachts shall be carried out annually by authorized surveyors of **IMMARBE**. The Survey shall ensure that the structure of vessels as well as these Regulations are complied with and a certificate of compliance shall be issued upon compliance with these Regulations.

**Surveys  
inspectors and  
certification.**

(2) **IMMARBE**, may entrust the survey to be carried out either by surveyors nominated for the purpose or by recognized organizations.

9. \_\_\_(1) All vessels shall be of good marine design and construction. Hull arrangements, materials used, scantlings of structure, bulkheads, main and auxiliary machinery, electrical installations, propulsion and steering stem shall be of an approved type.

**Construction**

(2) All vessels shall be of good marine design and construction so as to have at all times sufficient stability, whether under power of sail propulsion.

(3) An efficient bilge pumping system shall be fitted to all vessels, having suctions and means of drainage so arranged that any water that may enter any compartment can be pumped overboard. Sail boats and motor boats shall be equipped with efficient bilge

**Bilge pumping**

Pumping system of a manual or electric type. Motor vessels shall have at least one independent bilge pump of sufficient capacity.

Hatches, doors  
and other openings

(4) Exposed hatches and doors shall be of an approved construction and be efficiently connected to the adjoined structure. Portlights, windows and other openings, shall be of an approved type for yachts.

Deck drainage

(5) A sufficient number of freeing ports or scuppers shall be provided to free the weather decks of water.

Anchoring and  
Mooring equip-  
ment First  
Schedule

(6) Anchoring and mooring equipment for motor vessels shall Adequate depending on the type and size of vessel as specified in the First Schedule. The anchor and anchor size of chain cable ropes, hawsers and warps shall be of an approved type. The minimum weight of anchors used in motor boats and sail boats shall be in accordance with the Table set out in the First Schedule.

First Schedule

(7) All vessels shall have bulwarks or rails on weather decks accessible to passengers and crew.

Life saving  
appliances

10. Every vessel to which these Regulations, apply shall carry the following:

- (a) One lifejacket or an approved type for every person on board and in addition, where appropriate, a sufficient number of a type of life jacket suitable for children. This requirement applies also to vessels less than 6 meters in length.
- (b) Vessels up to 50 meters in length shall carry at least one (1) liferaft of an approved type, of sufficient aggregate capacity To accommodate the total number of persons on board.
- (c) Vessels over 50 meters in length shall carry at least two (2) Such liferafts. Liferafts may be substituted by rescue boats of an approved type. Inflatable liferafts shall be serviced every 12 months by a recognized agency.
- (d) Vessels up to 10 meters in length shall carry at least one (1) Lifebuoy.

- (e) Vessels over 10 meters in length but less than 20 meters shall carry at least two (2) lifebuoys.
- (f) Vessels over 20 meters in length shall carry at least four (4) lifebuoys. Lifebuoys shall be of an approved type, suitable for yachts and may be circular or of horseshoe type. At least one of the lifebuoys required by the above paragraph shall have a 25 meter buoyant line and a self-igniting light.
- (g) Vessels shall carry flares and distress signals of an approved Type suitable for yachts as follows:

Motor vessels – 4 parachute signals  
6 hand flares  
2 orange smoke signals

Motor boats and sail boats shall carry at least half of the above number.

All distress signals shall be kept in a dry waterproof container and be stowed away from engine heat and not in locker sharp or heavy objects.

11. (1) Motor vessels shall be equipped with at least one fire pump, independent or driven by the propelling machinery. Bilge, ballast or general service pumps are accepted as fire pumps provided that they are not used for pumping oil. The pump shall be of adequate capacity for fire fighting purposes and generally not less than 65% of the capacity of the bilge pump.

Fire protection  
extinguishing

(2) Motor vessels shall have adequate hydrants, hoses and nozzles which shall be so located that any part of the vessel may be accessible by an effective stream of water.

(3) The hydrants, hoses and nozzles, shall be of an approved design and constructed of suitable material.

(4) [a] In machinery spaces of motor vessels there shall be one (1) fire extinguisher of a suitable type for every 1,000 HP of main propulsion and machinery used for auxiliary purposes, but not less than two (2). The size of the extinguishers shall be not less than 5 lbs. Of CO or 2.5 lbs. Of dry chemical.

**Second Schedule**

[b] Other spaces of motor vessels shall be provided with an adequate number of fire extinguishers of a suitable type, depending on the space as set out in the Second Schedule.

**Third Schedule**

[c] Motor boats and sail boats shall have the portable fire extinguishers as set out in the Third Schedule.

[d] All extinguishers shall be of an approved design and construction and shall be checked annually for efficacy.

**Safety of navigation**

12. \_\_\_ (1) All vessels shall be equipped with navigation lights, sounds signals, daylighting shapes and distress signals.

(2) Owners, operators or masters of vessels are responsible for compliance with all applicable rules of International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea in force.

(3) Every vessel shall be equipped with up to date charts and other relevant publications to assist in safe and prudent navigation.

(4) Every vessel to which these Regulations apply, shall be equipped with the items set out in the Fourth Schedule.

**Fourth Schedule**

**Radio installations**

13. \_\_\_ (1) All sail boats and motor boats shall have a marine type VHF radiotelephone.

(2) Motor vessels shall be equipped with a radiotelephony installation of approved marine type.

**General equipment**

14. All vessels shall have the following general equipment:

- (a) A first aid kit which shall contain items as instructed by current medical authorities.
- (b) An engine tool kit which shall include essential spares and tools.
- (c) One hook..
- (d) A fog horn or other means of making sound.
- (e) Two (2) lines of the buoyant type.
- (f) One jack knife.

(g) A suitable number of hull wood plugs.

(h) One Bucket.

15.\_\_(1) All vessels shall possess a tonnage measurement certificate in accordance with the laws of Belize and issued either by IMMARBE or a recognized organization.

Tonnage  
measurement

(2) In case of the absence of relevant information for the calculation of tonnage measurement an optional simplified method may be used.

16. All vessels over 400 gross register tons (GRT) shall comply with the International Regulations for Prevention of Pollution at Sea (MARPOL 73/78). An International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate shall be on board all vessels.

Regulations for  
the prevention  
of pollution by  
oils.

**MADE** by the Attorney General this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1991.

**(GLENN D. GODFREY)**  
*Attorney General*



**FIRST SCHEDULE [Reg. 9(6)]**

**TABLE**

<b>LENGTH OF VESSEL (M/FT)</b>	<b>WEIGHT KG/LBS*</b>	<b>WEIGHT KG/LBS**</b>
6/20-10/33	5/10	14/30
10/20-12-39	7/10	18/40
12/39-14/46	10/22	23/50
14/46-16/52	16/35	27/60
16/52-18/59	20/45	34/75
18/59-20/66	25/56	43/95
20/66 and over	32/70	57/125

\* For voyage within 20 miles from the nearest shore.

\*\* For voyages over 20 miles.

<b>LENGTH VESSEL (M)</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>LENGTH ROPE (M)</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>LENGTH ROPE (MM)</b>	<b>OF</b>	<b>LENGTH CHAIN (MM)</b>	<b>OF</b>
6.0 – 8.0		40		13		6.5	
8.0 –10.0		50		13		8.0	
10.0 – 12.0		60		15		10.0	
12.0-14.0		70		16		11.0	
14.0 – and over		80		18		13.0	

**NOTE:** This mast, the standing and running rigging, and the sail arrangements of sailing vessels are left to the judgement of the owner, builders and designers and do not constitute part of the Regulations.

Registration of Merchant Ship

**SECOND SCHEDULE [Reg. 11 (4)]**

**(Fire Extinguishers)**

<b>SPACE</b>	<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF EXTINGUISHER</b>
Galley	1
Radio room	1
Navigation bridge	1
Steering gear	1
Accommodation spaces	1 per deck

**NOTE:** Where fixed CO fire extinguishing method is used, the number of lbs. of CO shall be based on the gross volume in ft. of the space divided by the appropriate Factor noted in the Table.

**TABLE**

<b>OVER</b>	<b>NOT OVER</b>	<b>FACTOR</b>
	500	15
500	1.600	16
1.600	4.500	18
4.500	50.000	20
50.0		22

**NOTE:** Where bilges are open or communicating, the total number of open or Communicating bilges shall be added to the volume of the space being protected.

Registration of Merchant Ships

**THIRD SCHEDULE [Reg. 11 (4)]**

**(Portable Fire Extinguishers)**

<b>TYPE OF BOAT</b>	<b>NO. OF EXTINGUISHERS</b>
Outboard (open)	1
Outboard motor boats	2
Motor boats under 10M	2
length but not over 15M	3
Motor boats 15M in length and over	4
Sailboats under 10M length	1
Sailboats 10M length and over but not over 15M	2
Ssailboats 15M length and over	3

**FOURTH SCHEDULE [Reg. 12 (4)]**

**(List of Items for vessels)**

Magnetic compass.

Bearing compass.

Fathometer or echo-sounding device.

One pair of dividers for distance measuring on the chart.

One pair binoculars.

Parallel rulers.

Table of life saving signals.

Signaling lamp suitable for Morse Code signaling.

A Belizean flag.

In addition to the above, vessels that are sailing more than 30 miles from the nearest shore, shall be equipped with the following approved type of instruments:

A radio direction finder (RDF).

A suitable type of radar.