



## Important information for Australian yacht owners participating in international yacht races and rallies or sailing overseas

Any Australian vessel (commercial ship, yacht or other pleasure craft) travelling to an overseas port, must be registered on the Australian General Shipping Register, regardless of its size. For participants in yacht races and rallies, there are two options available to satisfy this requirement:

### Registration

Registration is a one-off process with no annual renewal fee. If a yacht is likely to be participating in more than one overseas event or will travel to other overseas ports following the event, formal registration is the preferred option.

The purpose of registration is to register the title of a vessel and to grant Australian nationality to a ship. This record of good title can also be of benefit if an owner wishes to sell their yacht in the future.

Australian Customs will require confirmation of registration prior to granting clearance to depart. International ports generally also require vessels to have some form of national registration prior to granting formal clearance into that country.

For comprehensive details on how to apply for Australian registration, refer to [www.amsa.gov.au/sro](http://www.amsa.gov.au/sro). A printable guide can be downloaded from [www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/Publications/AMSA451.pdf](http://www.amsa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/Publications/AMSA451.pdf)

### Temporary passes for yacht races

To assist unregistered Australian yachts participating in races between an Australian port and a foreign port, AMSA, in consultation with Yachting Australia (formerly the Australian Yachting Federation (AYF)), has agreed to grant temporary passes to unregistered yachts, provided that:

- a. the race is conducted by a yachting organisation which is affiliated with Yachting Australia; and
- b. Yachting Australia provides written confirmation of the affiliation and the details of the race and the participants.

**Note:** There may be other special circumstances where a yacht may be granted a temporary pass for a yacht race. Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### Application process for yacht races

1. Each yacht owner will need to make applications for two temporary passes: one for the outgoing voyage, another for the return;
2. The application forms and fees (a fee is required for each application) should be sent to the Shipping Registration Office; and
3. The race organiser should arrange for Yachting Australia to provide a confirmatory letter to the Shipping Registration Office.
4. If the race is not a Yachting Australia event, a letter setting out the need for a temporary pass should be provided to the Shipping Registration Office.

It may be convenient for the race organiser to collect the applications, fees and the Yachting Australia letter, or letter from the race organiser and send them in a batch to the Shipping Registration Office. Contact the event organiser for further details.

### Vessels wanting to undertake commercial operations during, or after, the race

Registration applies nationality to the vessel, however, where the yacht has domestic commercial certification it does not allow it to operate commercially beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Australia.

Where a vessel wishes to undertake commercial operations:

- during a yacht race beyond the EEZ of Australia; and/or
- at the completion of the yacht race,

the vessel will be required to hold the relevant certification, and comply with the relevant manning requirements, of the *Navigation Act 2012* for such vessels. More information is available on the AMSA web site or by contacting:

- [fsc@amsa.gov.au](mailto:fsc@amsa.gov.au) – for certification; and
- [manning@amsa.gov.au](mailto:manning@amsa.gov.au) – for manning.

## Registration Fees (current at 20 March 2015)

Temporary pass, per pass (two required for a return journey)	\$255
Application for Registration (for ship permitted to be registered)	\$1190
Registration of Transfer of Ownership (for ship permitted to be registered)	\$340
Grant of Replacement registration certificate	\$170

**Note:** Owners of registered yachts should ensure that their registration details are current and that their ownership of the vessel is registered with the Shipping Registration Office. The Registration Certificate must be carried on board the ship. The Shipping Registration office can provide forms for the transfer of ownership and the granting of replacement Certificates if required.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How much does it cost to register my yacht?

For vessels under 24 metres in tonnage length the fee for registration is \$1190. This is a one-off fee, and registration remains current until there is a change of ownership.

### What documents are required to demonstrate ownership of the vessel?

If the ship has been registered in Australia, the ownership document is a Bill of Sale from the registered owner to the new owner.

If the ship has been registered overseas, the ownership document is any document that is evidence of title to the ship under the overseas registration law.

If the ship has never been registered, the ownership document is:

- a. a builder's certificate and the transfer documents for any change of ownership of the ship; or
- b. if those documents are unavailable and the ship was built and acquired by the owner, outside Australia – the document by which the ship's owner acquired the ownership of the ship.

If the owner, after taking all reasonable action, cannot obtain the required documentation, the ownership document is:

- a. a statutory declaration by the applicant that gives the history of the ownership of the ship; or
- b. if the history is unknown, both of the following documents:
  - i. a statutory declaration by the applicant stating that the applicant believes that the person who is named in the application as the ship's owner is lawfully entitled to the ownership of the ship and stating the grounds for that belief; and

- ii. evidence that, at least 30 days before the application was lodged with the Registrar, a notice of intention to apply for the registration of the ship was published in the Gazette.

### How do I include my radio call sign on my registration?

Radio call signs are issued by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). To include the radio call sign on your registration you will need to provide a copy of your call sign licence with your application for registration.

### I'm a permanent Australian resident but not a citizen, can I register on the Australian General Shipping Register?

If the vessel is less than 12m in overall length, it can be registered if the majority shareholder is a permanent Australian resident. If the vessel is over 12m, it is only eligible for registration if it is majority owned by an Australian national or Australian incorporated company.

### I have State registration for my yacht, do I also need to have Australian registration?

You MUST have Australian registration prior to departure if you're planning to undertake an overseas voyage with your vessel in any of the following circumstances:

- from an Australian port to a foreign port,
- a foreign port to another foreign port, or
- a foreign port to an Australian port.

Without an Australian Registration Certificate, you will not be able to clear Customs.

### I need my registration in a hurry, is there a way to expedite the process?

We do offer a priority service if you need your registration processed ahead of the queue – an additional fee is payable of 50% of the lodgement fee. The priority service will ensure that your application will be processed as soon as it has been received by the office. Documents can also be checked prior to you sending them to ensure that they are correct. To take advantage of this service, contact the SRO for further details.