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## **Private Yacht Restricted Charter (PYRC)**

Notice to yacht owners, managers, Masters, officers, crew, Recognised Organisations, Yacht Survey Organisations and Approved Nautical Inspectors

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### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1. This Yacht Notice (YN) is issued by The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) to provide guidance to yacht owners wishing to operate a private yacht on restricted charters.
- 1.2. This Yacht Notice shall be read in conjunction with YN002.
- 1.3. Information on yachting in The Bahamas is provided in YN001.
- 1.4. Any queries may be sent to the BMA at [yachts@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:yachts@bahamasmaritime.com).

### **2. Application**

- 2.1. This Notice applies to all private yachts engaged in restricted charters.

### **3. General**

- 3.1. Private yachts are permitted to engage in restricted chartering for a maximum of 84 days per calendar year provided that they:
  - i. carry no more than 12 passengers or social guests; and
  - ii. are restricted to operating in forecast or actual wind of a maximum Beaufort Force 4, for a motor yacht, and Beaufort Force 6 for a sailing yacht; and
  - iii. remain within 60 nautical miles of a safe haven<sup>1</sup>.
- 3.2. The restrictions of section 3.1.ii and 3.1.iii are not applicable for private yachts that are in voluntary compliance with a yacht code. Any operating restrictions will be listed in the relevant Statement of Compliance.
- 3.3. Small Private Yachts (SPY) and Large Private Yachts (LPY), which do not hold a Statement of Compliance, must meet the minimum requirements of YN003 and YN004 respectively, unless otherwise required by the respective code (BSYC or BLYC), or this YN.

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<sup>1</sup>. The BMA may permit operation on specific routes up to 90 nautical miles from a safe haven as appropriate.

- 3.4. A Private Yacht on Restricted Charter will be described on the Certificate of Registry as a “Yacht – Private” but will also be issued with a **Private Yacht Restricted Charter Certificate (PYRCC)** when chartering.
- 3.5. A private yacht that does not hold a valid PYRCC is prohibited from commencing a charter.
- 3.6. The PYRCC will specify the size of the private yacht (small or large) and will include, when applicable, the operational limitations within which the yacht can operate whilst on charter.
- 3.7. The owner/operator of a private yacht, which do not hold a Statement of Compliance, shall, in good time before the first charter, submit the yacht for survey by a Bahamas Recognised Organisation<sup>2</sup> (RO) or Yacht Survey Organisation (YSO)<sup>3</sup>. On satisfactory completion of the Private Yacht Restricted Charter Survey (PYRC Survey), the RO/YSO will issue a PYRCC to the yacht and provide a copy to the BMA.
- 3.8. The owner/operator of a private yacht, which holds a Statement of Compliance, shall still submit request to the BMA for restricted charter, but, as the yacht is already under survey regime for voluntary compliance with a relevant yacht code, the PYRCC will be issued immediately without the need of a PYRC Survey.
- 3.9. The PYRCC has a maximum validity of 84 days. A yacht can be issued with more than one PYRCC provided that the cumulative validity of all the certificates is not more than 84 days in any one calendar year.
- 3.10. A private yacht, which does not hold a Statement of Compliance, shall be subject to a PYRC Survey, as per section 3.6, at the beginning of each charter. However, the BMA may consider, on a case-by-case basis, waiving the PYRC Survey when the interval between charters is no longer than 30 days and subject to a Master’s declaration that the yacht has not undergone any changes since last PYRC Survey.
- 3.11. Any private yacht that intends to charter must also consider the national and local laws of the coastal State, which shall prevail at all times.
- 3.12. The BMA strongly recommends that the owner/manager of any private yacht considering chartering outside the jurisdiction of The Bahamas seeks appropriate advice from the authorities in the intended are(s) of operation: this is especially important when considering chartering anywhere in Europe.

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<sup>2</sup> A list of Bahamas RO is provided in [Marine Notice 002](#).

<sup>3</sup> A list of Bahamas YSO is provided in [Yacht Notice 009](#).

#### **4. Conditions before and during chartering**

- 4.1. Before a private yacht is permitted to charter, the BMA must be informed in writing of the date(s) and cruising area(s) of the intended charter.
- 4.2. Whilst chartering, the yacht shall:
- i. comply with operational limitations as listed in the PYRCC, where applicable, at all times; and
  - ii. have appropriate Protection & Indemnity (P&I) and Hull & Machinery insurance cover that includes operating whilst engaged in trade for the period of each and any charter; and
  - iii. be constructed and maintained in compliance with the structural, mechanical and electrical requirements of the BSYC or BLYC as applicable; and
  - iv. be in compliance with a relevant yacht code, or be equipped and maintained in compliance with at the least following sections of relevant codes:
    - live saving appliances (Section 13 of BSYC and BLYC);
    - firefighting equipment (Section 15 of BSYC and BLYC);
    - manning, including the certification and number of the crew as required by the Minimum Safe Manning Document (Section 26 of BSYC and BLYC); and
  - v. shall operate a Safety Management System that meets the requirements of the ISM Code for yachts of 500GT and above or the requirements of the relevant code (BSYC/BLYC) for yachts of less than 500GT.
- 4.3. Should any of the conditions above not be met at any time the BMA may revoke the Private Yacht Restricted Charter Certificate without notice, upon which chartering will be prohibited.

#### **5. Queries.**

- 5.1. Any queries on this Notice may be addressed to [yachts@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:yachts@bahamasmaritime.com) or any BMA office.

**Revision History**

Version	Description of Revision
1.0	First Issue
1.1	Section 3 rewritten, sections 4.2.i and 4.2.iv amended
1.2	Updated branding
1.3	Periodic review. New section 5
1.4	Periodic review