
Large Charter Yachts (LCY)

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

This Yacht Notice supersedes BMA Information Bulletin No. 102

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Yacht Notice (YN) is issued by The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) to provide guidance on the technical standards, statutory and classification requirements for charter (commercial) yachts of 24 metres (approximately 78 feet 8 inches) length (L)¹ and above ('Large Charter Yachts' or 'LCY').
- 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 referred to the BMA at yachts@bahamasmaritime.com.
- 1.5. LCYs are not permitted to carry more than 12 passengers.

2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies to all LCYs.

3. Technical Standards

- 3.1. LCYs are required to comply with the technical standards and mandatory provisions of the Bahamas Charter Large Charter Yacht Code (BLYC) applicable to their size and total number of persons on board.
- 3.2. LCYs in restricted operation may comply with the provisions of the BLYC for Short Range Yachts.

¹ Length (L) or "Load Line length" means 96% of the total length on a waterline of a ship at 85% of the least moulded depth measured from the top of the keel, or the length from the fore-side of the stem to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that be greater. In ships designed with a rake of keel the waterline on which this is measured shall be parallel to the designed waterline.

- 3.3. New² LCYs are required to comply with the technical standards and mandatory provisions of BLYC Version 2 for their size and total number of persons on board.
- 3.4. Existing LCYs³ may continue to comply with the standards in force at the time of initial survey with the exception of the items shown in paragraph 1.6.3 of BLYC Version 2 which shall be complied with by the first annual survey after 01 January 2021.
- 3.5. LCYs which are intended to operate in Polar Regions shall meet the requirements of the BLYC, the IMO Polar Code and those of a Recognised Organisation (RO) appropriate to the intended area of operation.
- 3.6. The depth and extent of the survey for the BYC will depend upon the tonnage of the yacht and other statutory surveys that may be in place which duplicate certain sections of the Code.
- 3.7. The BMA will consider similar Codes that provide equivalent standards to the BLYC and that have been notified to IMO
- 3.8. Some sections of the BYC modify aspects of the SOLAS certificates for yachts that are over 500 gross tonnage. Surveyors engaged on such surveys shall be guided by the specific provisions of the BLYC when surveying for SOLAS compliance.

4. Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Certificate of Compliance

- 4.1. LCYs are required to be surveyed and certified in accordance with the applicable requirements of the BLYC.
- 4.2. Compliance with the BLYC will entitle an LCY to be issued with a Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Certificate of Compliance.
- 4.3. Compliance with the standards required by the BLYC will entitle yachts to also be issued with the certification required by the international conventions applicable to the vessel, upon satisfactory completion of the corresponding surveys and inspections.
- 4.4. The initial and renewal surveys shall be carried out by a Bahamas Recognised Organisation⁴ (RO) or by a Bahamas Yacht Survey Organisation⁵ (YSO), however Bahamas YSOs are not authorised to undertake surveys on LCYs of 500 gross tonnage

² A new LCY means a yacht, the keel of which was laid or the construction or lay up was started on or after 01 January 2021.

³ An existing LCY means a yacht, the keel of which was laid or the construction or lay up was started before 01 January 2021.

⁴ A list of Bahamas Recognised Organisations is provided in [Marine Notice 002](#).

⁵ A list of Bahamas Yacht Survey Organisations is provided in [Yacht Notice 009](#).

and above. On satisfactory completion of the surveys the surveyor will issue a short-term Certificate of Compliance valid for 6 months.

- 4.5. The short-term Certificate of Compliance and survey report shall be forwarded to the BMA by the surveyor. Upon satisfactory review and payment of the applicable fee, the BMA will issue a full-term Certificate of Compliance.
- 4.6. The full-term Certificate of Compliance is valid for five years, subject to annual survey by the RO/YSO within the three-month period before or after the anniversary date.
- 4.7. If surveys are not carried out as required by the BLYC, the Certificate of Compliance ceases to be valid.
- 4.8. Compliance with the stability provisions of the BLYC may be demonstrated by the approval of the BMA Yacht Stability Information Booklet by a RO/YSO.
- 4.9. Templates of the BMA Yacht Stability Information Booklet are available upon request from yachts@bahamasmaritime.com or on the Yachts page of the Bahamas website.

5. Statutory Requirements

- 5.1. LCYs shall comply with applicable Bahamas regulations and international conventions as appropriate to their length, gross tonnage and number of persons carried on board.
- 5.2. The statutory requirements for surveys and certification are summarised below and a list of statutory documents to be carried is shown in Annex 1 to this YN.

5.3. Carving and Marking

- 5.3.1. All yachts shall be permanently and conspicuously marked with the name, port of registry, official number, net tonnage and draft marks in accordance with the Merchant Shipping Act. Please refer to paragraph 5.11 of YN002.

5.4. Tonnage

- 5.4.1. All LCYs shall have their tonnage determined in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 by a Bahamas RO or YSO and issued with an International Tonnage Certificate.
- 5.4.2. Tonnage is calculated and issued at construction or when a yacht is altered such that the tonnage is increased or decreased. The Tonnage Certificate should include the method of calculations used to determine the tonnage.

5.5. **Ship Radio Licence**

- 5.5.1. All yachts are required to hold a Bahamas Ship Radiocommunications Licence, which is issued by the BMA on behalf of the responsible communications regulatory body⁶.
- 5.5.2. A Ship Station Radio Licence Application [Form R108](#) is to be submitted at the time of registration and when any of the radio equipment is replaced, including Emergency position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs).
- 5.5.3. **EPIRBs must be registered** – see [BMA Marine Notice 45](#).

5.6. **Load Line**

- 5.6.1. All LCYs engaged on international voyages shall be surveyed against the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966, as amended and hold an International Load Line Certificate.

5.7. **Manning and Minimum Safe Manning Document**

- 5.7.1. LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above shall be issued with and carry a Minimum Safe Manning Document (MSMD).
- 5.7.2. A MSMD is not required for LCYs of less than 500 gross tonnage, however, owners may voluntarily apply for an MSMD. This will allow the owner to consider a 'range and risk' approach when determining manning levels.
- 5.7.3. The MSMD is valid for 5 years and is subject to the fee indicated in [BMA Marine Notice 50](#). Further details including the application procedure are provided in [BMA Information Bulletin No. 115](#).
- 5.7.4. Officer's watchkeeping certificates issued under the STCW Convention⁷ and similar certificates for yachts, such as those of the master, deck and engineer officers referred to in paragraph 5.7.5 must be endorsed by the BMA in accordance with the procedures for Flag State Endorsements in regulation I/10 of STCW, as amended, referred to in detail in [BMA Information Bulletin No. 108](#).
- 5.7.5. Watchkeeping Certificates of lower grades than those detailed in the STCW Convention, as amended, may be recognised by the BMA on a case by case basis. Please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No. 108](#).

⁶ For The Bahamas this is the [Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority \(URCA\)](#)

⁷ The International Convention on Standards of Training and Certification for Watchkeepers, 1978, as amended

- 5.7.6. Seafarer Employment Agreements and the social and employment provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act and the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, are mandatory on LCYs.
- 5.7.7. Seafarers working on Bahamian yachts may apply for and be issued with Seaman's Record Books (SRBs), which are available on request. It should be noted however that a Bahamas SRB is NOT an identity document and is unsuitable for immigration purposes or as an authoritative identity document - such documents should be issued by the relevant agency in seafarer's home country. Please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No. 107](#).
- 5.8. **Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC)**
- 5.8.1. MLC 2006 applies to all seafarers and all yachts, whether publicly or privately owned, ordinarily engaged in commercial activities.
- 5.8.2. LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above shall be inspected and issued with a Maritime Labour Certificate. Further details are provided in [BMA Information Bulletin No. 127](#) and the BLYC.
- 5.9. **Prevention of marine pollution (MARPOL Convention⁸)**
- 5.9.1. LCYs shall comply with the provisions of the MARPOL Convention as detailed below.
- 5.9.2. The required MARPOL Record Books shall always be readily available on board for inspection by surveyors and other duly authorised officials (such as Port State Control Officers) to demonstrate compliance with the Convention.
- 5.9.3. MARPOL Record Books are available to purchase from the BMA – please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No. 169](#). Alternatively, electronic record keeping systems are accepted – please refer to [Marine Notice 010](#).
- 5.9.4. **MARPOL Annex I (Oil Pollution)**
- i. LCYs of 400 gross tonnage and above are required to:
 - (a) be surveyed and to hold an International Oil Pollution Prevention (IOPP) Certificate in compliance with MARPOL Annex I; and
 - (b) maintain on board an Oil Record Book Part I.

⁸ The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended

- 5.9.5. *MARPOL Annex IV (Sewage)*
- i. LCYs certified to carry more than 15 persons, **OR** of 400 gross tonnage and above, are required to be surveyed and provided with an International Sewage Pollution Prevention (ISPP) Certificate.
- 5.9.6. *MARPOL Annex V (Garbage)*
- i. LCYs shall comply with the provisions of MARPOL Annex V for the discharge of garbage into the sea;
 - ii. LCYs shall display placards which notify the crew and passengers of the discharge requirements of regulations 3, 4, 5 and 6 of MARPOL Annex V;
 - iii. LCYs certified to carry 15 or more persons, **OR** of 100 gross tonnage and above, are required to carry a Garbage Management Plan in accordance with Regulation 10 of MARPOL Annex V.
 - iv. LCYs certified to carry 15 or more persons engaged on voyages outside The Bahamas, **OR** of 400 gross tonnage and above, are required to maintain records in a Garbage Record Book Part I⁹ as described in Regulation 10 of MARPOL Annex V.
- 5.9.7. *MARPOL Annex VI (Air Pollution)*
- i. LCYs shall comply with the provisions of MARPOL Annex VI unless expressly provided otherwise.
 - ii. More information on MARPOL Annex VI is provided in [BMA Information Bulletin No. 75](#) and [BMA Information Bulletin No. 183](#).
 - iii. LCYs of 400 gross tonnage and above are required to:
 - be surveyed and to hold an International Air Pollution Prevention (IAPP) Certificate in compliance with MARPOL Annex VI; and
 - be surveyed and to hold an International Energy Efficiency Certificate (IEEC) in compliance with MARPOL Annex VI.
 - iv. **Engine International Air Pollution Prevention (EIAPP) Certificate**
 - All diesel engines with an output of more than 130kW¹⁰, installed on LCYs on or after 01 January 2000, are to be certified in accordance with the IMO NOx Technical Code and provided with an EIAPP Certificate and an approved Technical File.
 - A marine diesel engine installed on a LCY of 500 gross tonnage and above on or after 01 January 2021 shall comply with the Tier III NOx requirements specified in Regulation 13 of MARPOL Annex VI. However, compliance with Tier III requirements is only required for LCYs that intend to enter a NOx Emission Control Area.

⁹ Available for purchase from the BMA – see [BMA Information Bulletin No.169](#)

¹⁰ Approximately 177 horsepower

5.10. **International Anti-Fouling System Convention (AFS Convention)**

- 5.10.1. The AFS Convention applies to *all* vessel types operating in the marine environment, irrespective of tonnage, including every yacht.
- 5.10.2. LCYs of less than 400 gross tonnage are not required to have an International Anti-fouling System Certificate. However, the yacht's owner shall carry onboard evidence that the type of anti-fouling coating used is compatible with the AFS Convention.
- 5.10.3. LCYs of 400 gross tonnage and above engaged on international voyages shall be surveyed and hold an International Anti-Fouling System Certificate. A survey shall be carried out whenever the anti-fouling systems are changed or replaced and endorsed on the certificate.

5.11. **Safety certificates**

- 5.11.1. LCYs are required to be surveyed and certified in accordance with the applicable requirements of the survey guidelines under the IMO Harmonized System of Survey and Certification adopted by resolution [A.1140\(31\)](#) as applicable to cargo ships. The following certificates are to be issued.
- 5.11.2. **Safety Construction Certificate (SAFCON)**
- i. Applicable to LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above. Safety construction covers the following provisions of SOLAS, as modified by the BYC for specific application to LCYs:
- (a) SOLAS Chapter II-1: Construction; and
 - (b) SOLAS Chapter II-2: Structural fire protection and means of escape.
- 5.11.3. **Safety Equipment Certificate (SEC)**
- i. Applicable to LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above. Safety Equipment covers the following provisions of SOLAS, as modified by the BYC for specific application to LCYs:
- (a) SOLAS Chapter II-2: Fire appliances; and
 - (b) SOLAS Chapter III: Life-saving appliances; and
 - (c) SOLAS Chapter V: Navigation equipment.
- 5.11.4. **Safety Radio Certificate (SRC)**
- i. Applicable to LCYs of 300 gross tonnage and above. Safety Radio covers the following parts of SOLAS, as modified by the BYC for specific application to LCYs:
- (a) SOLAS Chapter IV: Radiocommunications.
- 5.11.5. **Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT)**
- i. LCYs of 300 gross tonnage and above shall comply with the LRIT requirements as described in [BMA Information Bulletin No. 111](#), except that yachts that operate

exclusively in a GMDSS¹¹ A1 sea area¹² **and** are fitted with an Automatic Identification System (AIS) are not required to install LRIT.

5.11.6. *International Safety Management Code (ISM Code)*

- i. LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above shall comply with the ISM Code and hold a Safety Management Certificate and a copy of the Company's¹³ ISM Document of Compliance.
- ii. LCYs of less than 500 gross tonnage shall comply with Part A of Section 24 of the BLYC.

5.11.7. *International Ship & Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code)*

- i. LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above shall comply with the ISPS Code and hold an International Ship Security Certificate.

5.11.8. *Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR)*

- i. LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above are required to hold a Continuous Synopsis Record in compliance with Regulation 5 of SOLAS Chapter XI-I. Please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No. 57](#).

5.12. ***Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended (COLREG)***

5.12.1. Navigation lights and shapes shall comply with the applicable provisions of COLREG, including the following provisions:

- i. all navigation lights shall be provided with main and emergency power supply;
- ii. all navigation lights required to be shown whilst underway shall be duplicated¹⁴; and
- iii. approved LED Lights may be used providing they comply with paragraph 4.3 of MSC.253(83).

5.13. ***International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (Bunker Convention)***

5.13.1. LCYs of 1,000 gross tonnage and above are required to maintain insurance or other financial security in accordance with the Bunker Convention and hold a Bunker CLC Certificate.

5.13.2. Please refer to [BMA Information Bulletin No.112](#).

¹¹ Global Maritime Distress and Safety System

¹² Provision for exemption or equivalent arrangement is made for LCYs engaged in an international voyage outside the GMDSS A1 sea area – see BMA Information Bulletin No.111.

¹³ The "Company" is the entity responsible for the management of the ship in accordance with the ISM Code. For ships to which the ISM Code is not applicable, the Company is the Managing Owner in accordance with section 52 of the Merchant Shipping Act (Ch.268)

¹⁴ See IMO Resolution [MSC.253\(83\) Recommendation on Performance Standards for Navigation Lights](#)

5.14. ***Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, as amended (BWM 2004);***

5.14.1. LCYs that use water for ballasting purposes are required to comply with the BWM Convention¹⁵.

5.14.2. LCYs of 400 gross tonnage and above that use water for ballasting are required to be surveyed and hold an International Ballast Water Certificate.

5.15. ***Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007***

5.15.1. LCYs of 300 gross tonnage and above are required to carry an appropriate level of insurance covering liability for costs arising from the costs of wreck removal.

5.15.2. As evidence that adequate insurance cover is in place the owner or operator of the ship is required to carry a Wreck Removal Insurance Certificate to this effect issued by the BMA.

6. Classification Requirements.

6.1. LCYs of 500 gross tonnage and above are required to be "in class" with a Bahamas Recognised Organisation.

6.2. LCYs of less than 500 gross tonnage are not required to be "in class" with a Bahamas RO, but class is encouraged to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and ensure that the yacht is safe and seaworthy. It should also be noted that ROs may not be willing to undertake statutory surveys for unclassified yachts.

6.3. Bahamas Recognised Organisations are authorised to examine plans, perform surveys and issue statutory certification on behalf of The Government of The Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

7. Bahamas Safety Inspection

7.1. LCYs shall undergo a safety inspection by a Bahamas YSO or inspector at least once every 5 years. The schedule for this inspection will be arranged via the BMA and will be tailored to the cruising style and location of the yacht.

¹⁵ See [BMA Information Bulletin No.165](#)

Annex 1 - List of statutory documents to be carried by a LCY

Gross Tonnage	Document	Issuing body
All	Certificate of Registry	BMA
	Carving and Marking Inspection	BMA/YSO
	Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Certificate of Compliance	BMA
	Bahamas Safety Inspection Certificate	BMA
	International Load Line Certificate	RO/YSO/BMA
	International Tonnage Certificate	RO/YSO/BMA
	Ship Radio Licence	BMA
	Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate ($\geq 130\text{kW}$).	Engine Manufacturer
≥ 300	Safety Radio Certificate	RO/YSO/BMA
	LRIT Conformance Test Report	BMA
	Wreck Removal Insurance Certificate	BMA
≥ 400	International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate and Oil Record Book Part I	RO/YSO/BMA
	International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (Also applies to yachts carrying more than 15 persons)	RO/YSO/BMA
	Garbage Management Plan and Garbage Record Book Part I (Also applies to yachts carrying 15 or more persons)	Owner
	International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate and MARPOL Annex VI Record Book	RO/YSO/BMA
	International Energy Efficiency Certificate and Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP)	RO/YSO/BMA
	International Anti-Fouling System Certificate	RO/YSO/BMA
	International Ballast Water Management Certificate (if applicable)	RO/YSO/BMA
≥ 500	Minimum Safe Manning Document	BMA
	Certificate of Class	RO
	Safety Construction Certificate	RO/BMA
	Safety Equipment Certificate	RO/BMA
	ISM Safety Management Certificate	RO/BMA
	International Ship Security Certificate	RO/BMA
	Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR)	BMA
	Maritime Labour Certificate	RO/BMA
≥ 1000	Bunker CLC	BMA
BMA – Bahamas Maritime Authority RO – Recognised Organisation (Classification Society) YSO – Yacht Survey Organisation		

Revision History

Version	Description of Revision
1.0	First Issue
1.1	Section 7.1 correction of typo (SCYs amended to LCYs).
1.2	Updated branding