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## Bahamas Yacht Codes

Notice to ship owners, managers, Masters, Approved Nautical Inspectors, Recognised Organisations and surveyors

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Marine Notice (MN) describes the applicability of the Bahamas Yacht Code(s), as referenced in the Merchant Shipping (Yachts) Regulations.

### 2. Application

- 2.1. Applies to all passenger and charter yachts.

### 3. The Bahamas Large Charter Yacht Code (BYC/BLYC)

#### 3.1. General

- 3.1.1. The BLYC is for charter yachts of 24 metres length (L)<sup>1</sup> and above, carrying not more than 12 passengers.
- 3.1.2. Version 1 of the Bahamas Yacht Code was originally released in 2010 and was based on the Red Ensign Group Large Yacht Code Version 2 (LY2).
- 3.1.3. The Code has been revised and updated to Version 2, which is based on the Red Ensign Group Large Yacht Code Part A.

#### 3.2. BYC Version 1

- 3.2.1. Version 1 of the Code applies to all new<sup>2</sup> yachts constructed on or after 01 January 2011 but before 01 January 2021.
- 3.2.2. Version 1 of the Code continues to apply to existing<sup>3</sup> yachts, except as indicated in paragraph 3.3.2.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> "New" means a yacht, the keel of which was laid or the construction or lay up was started on or after 01 January 2021

<sup>3</sup> "Existing" means a yacht, the keel of which was laid or the construction or lay up was started before 01 January 2021

### 3.3. **BLYC Version 2**

- 3.3.1. Version 2 of the Code applies to all new yachts constructed on or after 01 January 2021.
- 3.3.2. Existing yachts which have been or are currently under survey to BYC Version 1 or equivalent Charter Yacht Codes shall continue to be considered under the standards in force at the time of initial survey except as indicated in paragraph 1.6.3 of the BLYC. The items listed under paragraph 1.6.3 of BLYC shall be complied with by the first annual survey after 01 January 2021.

## **4. The Bahamas Small Charter Yacht Code (BSYC)**

### 4.1. **General**

- 4.1.1. The BSYC is for charter yachts of 12 or more, and less than 24 metres length (L), carrying not more than 12 passengers. Yachts of less than 12 metres length (L) are not accepted for registration.
- 4.1.2. The BSYC is based on the United Kingdom Maritime and Coastguard Agency's MGN280, amended to suit the Bahamas' requirements for small yachts.
- 4.1.3. BSYC applies to all new yachts constructed on or after 01 January 2021. New yachts may also be constructed to equivalent standards acceptable to the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA), as listed in Yacht Notice 05.
- 4.1.4. Existing yachts which have been or are currently under survey to equivalent standards accepted by the BMA may continue to comply with that standard.

## **5. The Bahamas Passenger Yacht Code (BPLYC)**

### 5.1. **General**

- 5.1.1. The BPLYC is based on the Red Ensign Group Large Yacht Code Part B.
- 5.1.2. New Passenger Yachts shall comply with the provisions of the BPLYC for their size and total number of persons on board.
- 5.1.3. Existing Passenger Yachts which have been or are currently under survey to equivalent Passenger Yacht Codes shall continue to be considered under the standards in force at the time of initial survey except as indicated in paragraph 1.7.1 of the BPLYC. The items listed under paragraph 1.7.1 of BPLYC shall be complied with by the first annual survey after 01 January 2021.

## 6. Equivalence to international requirements

- 6.1. In accordance with Article 8 of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966; regulation I/5 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974; and Article IX of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended, the BMA has notified the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that:
- i. BLYC is an equivalent arrangement for yachts which are 24 metres and over in load line length and which do not carry cargo and do not carry more than 12 passengers, or if built before 21 July 1968, 150 gross tons and over according to the tonnage measurement applying at that date; and
  - ii. BPYC is an equivalent arrangement for yachts of any size that carry more than 12 but not more than 36 passengers on international voyages
- 6.2. This notification is available on the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) under reference XQ89832<sup>4</sup>.

## 7. Queries

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

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<sup>4</sup> <https://gisis.imo.org/Members/SURCERT/ExemptionsEquivalents.aspx?Id=8983&Action=View> (registration required)

**Revision History**

Version	Description of Revision
1.0	First Issue