

**The Bahamas**  
Maritime Authority

The logo for The Bahamas Maritime Authority is positioned in the upper left quadrant. It features the text 'The Bahamas' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font, with 'Maritime Authority' in a smaller, white sans-serif font directly below it. A thin yellow horizontal line is located under the text. The background of the entire page is a teal color with a large, faint watermark of the coat of arms of the Bahamas. The coat of arms includes a shield with a palm tree, a ship, and a banner at the top that reads 'THE BAHAMAS MARITIME AUTHORITY'. Below the shield, there is another banner with the word 'PROGRESS' and a flag on a pole to the right.

**Your flag for quality  
ship registration**

Progress, Honour, Service

# Quality and excellence are in our BMA

The Bahamas Maritime Authority was established in 1995. Its remit – to register vessels, enforce ship safety requirements and constantly monitor and improve standards of ships flying The Bahamas Flag.

With an increasing fleet based in all four corners of the globe, The BMA is now ranked among the world's top 10 shipping registries comprising over 65 million gross tons of ships.

Truly a maritime nation, much of The Bahamas' modern prosperity and affluence is the direct result of the growth of its global shipping services, which include:

- ▶ A favourite cruise port of call
- ▶ A major container terminal
- ▶ Repair facilities with dry dock
- ▶ Petroleum products, transshipment and bunkering facilities
- ▶ A vibrant shipping services hub incorporating shipping law, finance, insurance and brokering



**1450+**  
Bahamas  
Registered  
Vessels



**64.5 Million**  
Gross Tons  
Registered



**Global**  
Support  
Services



**Qualship 21,**  
Whitelist and  
Low Risk Flag  
Status  
in Paris, Tokyo MoU

## The Bahamas Fleet

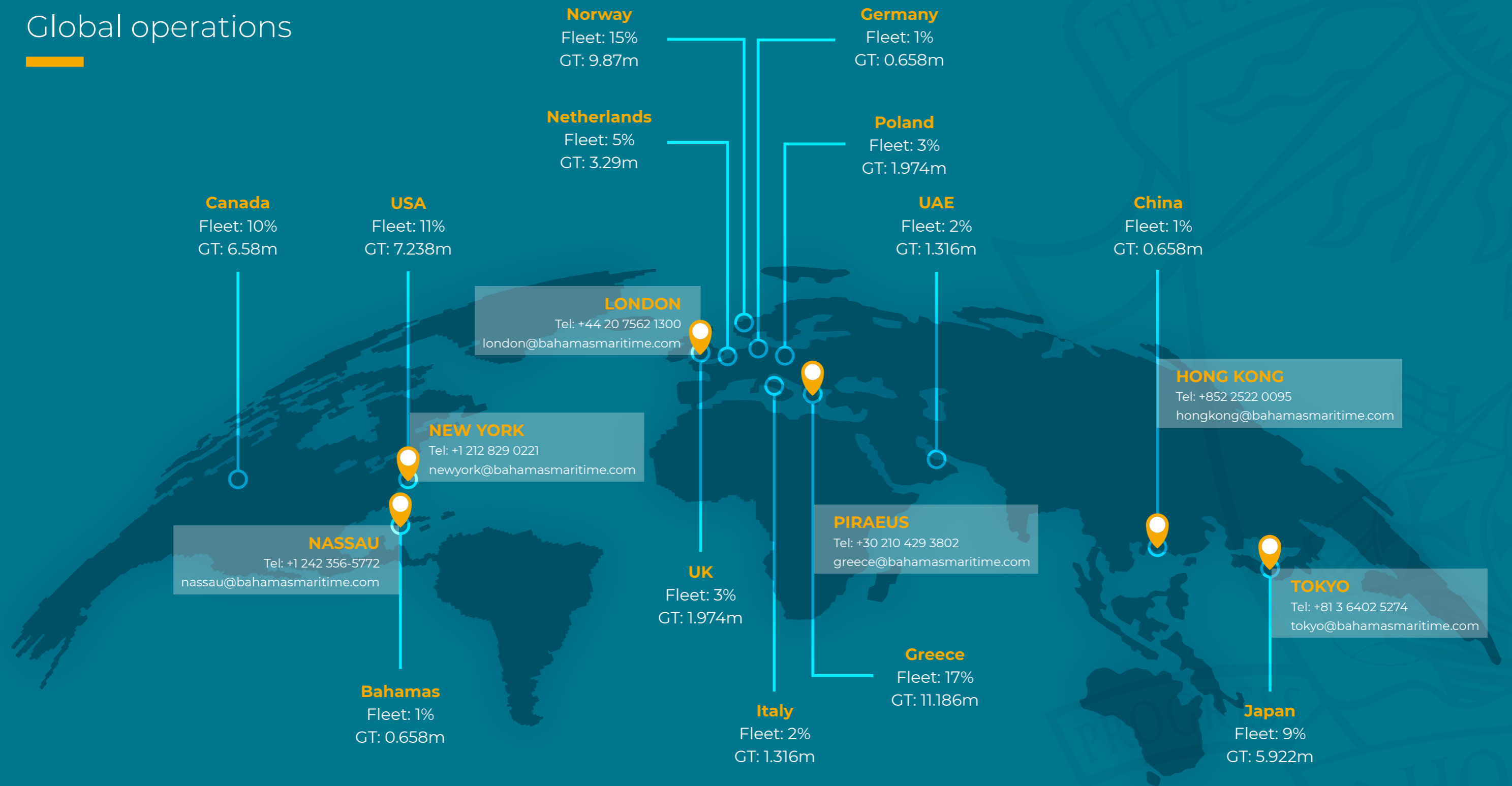
The Bahamas' Register has a broad-based portfolio of ship types and an in-depth understanding of their particular needs.

Perhaps best known for its world-class cruise fleet, in fact passenger ships make up 13% of ship numbers on the Bahamas Register. General cargo accounts for 5%, tankers 14% and bulk carriers 18%. The Bahamas is also proud of its technical expertise in supporting the offshore industry – offshore oil and gas support vessels alone account for 13% of the vessels registered with the Flag.



Port of Nassau, Bahamas

# Global operations



**6** Regional offices

**200+** Approved auditors and inspectors globally  
To find your nearest inspector, please visit [www.bahamasmaritime.com/inspectors-list/](http://www.bahamasmaritime.com/inspectors-list/)

**Out of hours emergency contact:**  
Phone: +44 7977 471220  
Email: [ero@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:ero@bahamasmaritime.com)

Why Flag with the Bahamas?

# We value every vessel in our fleet



## 24/7 Global Emergency Response

A dedicated team is here to provide advice and support in case of emergencies, available 24 hours a day.

## BORIS

### Industry-leading online registration system

Industry-leading online registration system delivering premier client customer service.

## Timely and effective registration process – achievable within a day

Fully-manned offices in Asia, North America and two different European time zones, providing a timely and effective registration process.

## Worldwide Flag State inspector network

Coverage in all major ports and regions to help ensure that ships comply with all regulations.

## US Coast Guard Qualship status

The BMA has maintained Qualship 21 status since 2011, demonstrating the organisations continued commitment to safety and quality improvement.

## Preferential Maritime Agreement with China

Bahamian Flagged vessels get a preferential 28% discount on all port tonnage dues in China.

## On all PSC White Lists and “Low Risk” Flag status in Paris and Tokyo MoU

The Bahamas is the leading Flag in 7/10 PSC regimes against competitors. For over 17 years, The BMA has been included on the Paris MoU Port State inspection whitelist of Flag State performance.

The BMA continuously strives to minimise detention rates.

## Registration expertise with a broad range of ship types

Our team has experience with all main ship types.

## Active IMO member state

High level links to influential organizations, providing benefits to owners and managers.

## Providing worldwide support to Bahamas-registered vessels

Offices located across Asia, Europe and America.

## Electronic Certificates

Approved to be issued on all BMA Fleet.

## Signatory of Bustamante Code

To operate in the Brazilian offshore sector, vessels must be registered with either Brazil or another country's Flag that is a signatory to the Bustamante Code.

## All ship types considered

Ships of any age or tonnage, and all yachts of 12 metres length (LOA) and above considered for registration.

## Competitive registration fees

Competitive registration fees offering excellent value.

## Dual registration/ bareboat registration

Choices of registration available.

## BMA-approved LSA service providers

The BMA maintains a global list of approved LSA service providers.



# Representing your interests at the highest level

By maintaining relationships with key industry organisations, The BMA is able to ensure delivery of the highest possible service standards. The BMA is constantly strengthening existing partnerships and seeking new collaborative opportunities so that shipowners can benefit from the knowledge, best practices and expertise held within these key maritime associations.

The BMA has an international reputation, earned for expert advice and guidance, and takes a proactive, leading role at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO) and other leading industry forums.

The Bahamas is a long-standing member of the IMO Council and has a dedicated Maritime Affairs Department whose sole role is to provide active representation at both the IMO and the ILO.

The Council is the ultimate decision-making authority of the IMO and all of our owners benefit from this direct input into the regulatory process. The BMA has long played a leading role in shaping the technical, legal and administrative regulations produced by the IMO as well as being one of the IMO's largest financial contributors.

**The BMA has been instrumental in guiding significant legislation on a variety of issues such as:**

- ▶ green house gas strategy
- ▶ safety of embarkation arrangements and ventilation of lifeboats
- ▶ early implementation of requirements and safe carriage of industrial personnel

This ensures the entire shipping industry benefits from The BMA's wealth of expertise. Through the registry's active participation at the IMO, The BMA ensures that the IMO's core principles of safety and security at sea, preservation of the marine environment and professionalism of seafarers are not only adhered to globally, but also at a regional level.

Proud to be working with:

## Bahamas Ship Owners



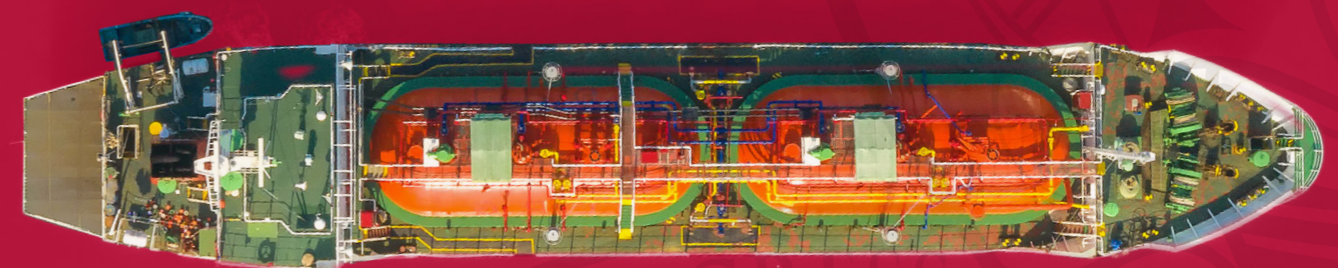
[www.bahamasshipownersassociation.com](http://www.bahamasshipownersassociation.com)  
[bsa@bahamasshipownersassociation.com](mailto:bsa@bahamasshipownersassociation.com)

The Bahamas Ship Owners Association (BSA) has a long and distinguished history of representing the collective voice of its members who have common interests and a common purpose.

The BSA's objectives are: to promote the interests of owners of Bahamian registered vessels and to facilitate dialogue between The BMA and the Association's members; to offer owners the chance to be proactive in discussing prospective international policy changes, especially with regard to IMO deliberations; and to meet with international bodies such as the European Union, Paris MoU, US Coast Guard and the US Environmental Protection Agency to lobby on behalf of the interests of Bahamas-flagged vessels. The

BSA represents its members as an active participant at the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).

The Board of the BSA is made up of owners from various nations and shipping sectors. No sector goes unheard or unrepresented. The Committee holds regular meetings to review proposals that affect the shipping industry.





# Ensuring quality of service is in our DNA

- ▶ **Registrars available around the clock:**  
Fully-manned offices in Asia, North America and two different European time zones providing a timely and effective registration process.
- ▶ **A user-friendly registration process:**  
Designed to meet all international standards without delaying operations.
- ▶ **A bespoke service, built on long-term relationships:**  
A dedicated registration team and its registrars will guide and support clients through the entire registration process.
- ▶ **Vessel and mortgage premium registration service:**  
Global coverage is provided through The BMA's offices, along with a network of BMA Appointed Inspectors located worldwide. Transactions can be completed to extremely tight deadlines and out-of-office hours appointments may be agreed.
- ▶ **Questions answered through a single telephone call:**  
With direct access to senior personnel, extending beyond the registration team to the entire organisation, queries can be answered immediately.
- ▶ **A reputation built on trust:**  
BMA has long-standing relationships with notaries, leading ship financiers and financiers' lawyers acting on behalf of their shipowning clients.
- ▶ **A wealth of legal knowledge:**  
A significant number of the registration team have a legal background.



The Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) welcomes all types of vessels to the register while ensuring relevant legal and safety standards are met. As part of the registration requirements, the technical suitability and age of a vessel are also taken into consideration before it is accepted to fly the Bahamas Flag.

Foreign-owned ships engaged in international trade may be registered in The Bahamas. Vessels over 12 years old are subject to a pre-registration inspection undertaken by an authorised Bahamas

inspector and applications are approved on an individual basis. Applications for vessels of less than 1600 net tons may also be submitted to the register and will be assessed on an individual basis.

Vessels that are owned by Bahamian nationals, corporations or are foreign owned can hold a direct title to a Bahamas-flagged ship.

**For Registration Enquiries:**  
[reg@bahamasmaritime.com](mailto:reg@bahamasmaritime.com)



## The BMA's Online Vessel Registration Fee Calculator

Please contact our registration team to discuss pricing options.

Visit our website for more information:  
[www.bahamasmaritime.com](http://www.bahamasmaritime.com)



# Committed to keeping your vessels operational and maximising fleet performance

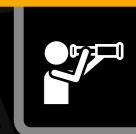
Safety of life, maritime security and protection of the marine environment are the most important parts of The BMA's work. Consequently, we staff our offices with experienced surveyors.

The Inspections & Surveys Department is primarily responsible for ensuring that all ships registered comply with the applicable international and national requirements. The department reviews ships proposed for registration to ensure that they are technically acceptable, and has oversight and management of the BMA annual inspection program, Port State Control, Recognised Organisations, LRIT and quality control. The department also develops technical standards and approves the appointment of Bahamas-approved LSA service providers (BASP).

Surveys, audits and certification required under the provisions of Bahamas regulations and international conventions to, which The Commonwealth of The Bahamas is a party, are delegated to the Recognised Organisations listed in Marine Notice 02.

All 12 IACS Classification Societies have been authorised to carry out statutory certification and services for ships registered in The Bahamas and companies operating Bahamian ships.

## Bahamas-Recognised Organisations



# Working collaboratively to improve safety

The Investigations Department's overarching objective is to eliminate marine casualties. The department works alongside our owners so that together we can make sure that lessons learned from a casualty are implemented, reducing the likelihood of a recurrence. The department does this by ensuring that all marine casualties, whether within Bahamian territorial waters or involving Bahamas-registered vessels elsewhere in the world, receive access to The BMA's extensive investigative experience to identify what, why and how an incident occurred. The BMA's skilled team of mariners examines all events, no matter how minor. The information obtained through this analysis is used to identify trends, which can then be shared amongst the Bahamas fleet to improve safety.

The Investigations Department is responsible for:

- ▶ carrying out investigations to determine the cause of marine casualties and marine incidents
- ▶ publishing marine safety investigation reports that include recommendations and lessons learned to improve safety
- ▶ determining where possible what changes in the present regulations might be desirable
- ▶ improving national and international co-operation in marine safety investigations.

To view the completed investigation reports, please visit

[bahamasmaritime.com](http://bahamasmaritime.com)

The BMA asks owners, managers and masters to engage with the Investigations Department as early as possible following an incident and to share all information requested by the team.

# Ensuring the highest standards for seafarers

Ships and units registered with the Bahamas must comply with the international and national requirements to be sufficiently and efficiently manned with appropriately trained personnel. The BMA also expects full compliance with the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006, which sets out seafarers' rights to decent conditions of work.

The Seafarers and Manning Department is responsible for ensuring that all seafarers employed onboard Bahamas vessels are trained and certified in accordance with the International Convention on Standards of Training and Certification (STCW). The department is able to conduct STCW Deck & Engineering Certificate of Competency (CoC) examinations, both written and oral, in the Bahamas.

In addition, The BMA recognises STCW certificates issued by the majority of other national maritime administrations.

The Seafarers and Manning Department also approves training providers and issues certificates of competency and certificates of proficiency in accordance with IMO conventions, codes, resolutions and industry standards.

## Seafarers and Manning



Only training centres that have been audited by The BMA are included in the BMA-approved training providers list.

The BMA encourages ship owners and ship managers to invest and engage in the training and development of their seafarers. In support of this, The BMA's renowned auditing service is available to training providers and can give STCW approval.

To further aid our clients, Bahamas-registered vessels can obtain The BMA's approval to run STCW short courses (CoP) or refresher courses onboard. This results in significant cost savings for shipowners with a large fleet, particularly cruise vessels that have thousands of seafarers serving on board.

To view the list, visit

[www.bahamasmaritime.com/stcw-training/](http://www.bahamasmaritime.com/stcw-training/)

# Industry leading online registration system

In order to facilitate the timely processing of documents and to enhance our customer service delivery, The BMA has developed an industry leading online registration system (BORIS) for owners, ISM managers and agents acting on behalf of Bahamas-registered vessels.

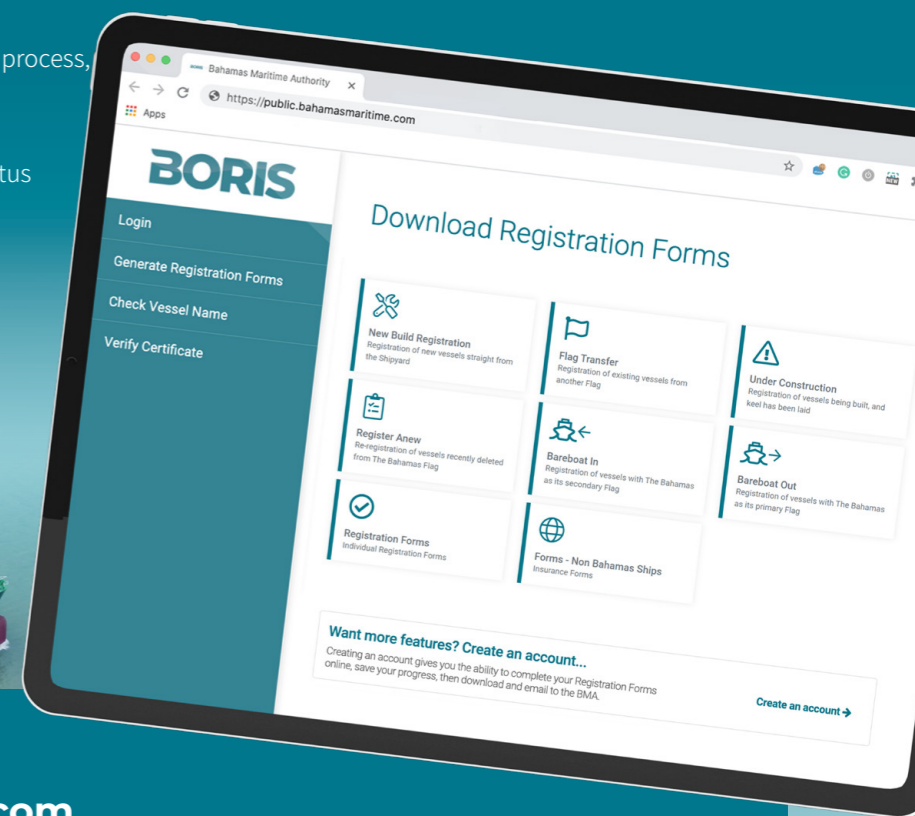
## BORIS gives registered users:

- ▶ the benefit of a single entry of vessel details
- ▶ active monitoring and tracking of applications
- ▶ an environmentally friendly solution through the electronic submission of documents and applications
- ▶ a downloadable system of generated documents
- ▶ increased accuracy and greater reliability of data
- ▶ online vessel inspections
- ▶ secure submission of online seafarer applications
- ▶ increased levels of control
- ▶ the ability to complete the entire registration process, including form completion, online
- ▶ the option to reserve a vessel name
- ▶ the option to verify invoice payments and status (or validity) of bahamas certificates



## Major benefits

A major benefit to users is that the enhanced system avoids the need to repeatedly enter ship data when completing registration forms as vessel details only need to be entered once. This will represent business efficiency combined with significant time and cost savings during the registration process.



To login or register for an account, visit

[public.bahamasmaritime.com](http://public.bahamasmaritime.com)



# Contact us

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