
Private Yacht Restricted Charter (PYRC)

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

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.

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 haven¹.
- 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.

¹. 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 Organisation² (RO) or Yacht Survey Organisation (YSO)³. 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.

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

³ 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 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