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## The Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2026

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

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This Notice provides additional information and operational requirements give effect by the [Merchant Shipping \(Tonnage\) Regulations 2026](#).

### 2. Application

- 2.1. This Notice applies to all ships.

### 3. General

- 3.1. All ships to be registered are to be measured and the tonnage ascertained as described in this Notice and the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2026.
- 3.2. For new build ships or existing Bahamian ships undergoing major conversion, the initial certificate of survey and tonnage certificate are to be issued prior to provisional registration or on completion of the conversion, unless otherwise agreed between the Registrar and the Recognised Organisation.
- 3.3. The initial International Tonnage Certificates must be forwarded to the Bahamas Maritime Authority (BMA) without due delay.
- 3.4. For existing ships changing flag to The Bahamas, the certificate of survey and tonnage issued under the losing flag are to be provided before registration of the ship.
- 3.5. The Bahamas Certificate of Survey and Tonnage certificate are to be issued at, or as soon as possible after, registration and subsequent change of flag, but in any case, no longer than three months after the change of flag as per the provisions of Article 10(3) of the Tonnage Convention.

#### 4. Ships of 24 metres<sup>1</sup> or more in length

- 4.1. Every ship of 24 metres or more in length must be surveyed and its tonnage ascertained in accordance with the International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969. An International Tonnage Certificate (ITC) is issued giving the details of the ship's tonnage and build and other descriptive particulars required for registration.
- 4.2. Surveys for and issue of the ITC are carried out by Bahamas Recognised Organisations, as listed in [Marine Notice 02](#).
- 4.3. Following the initial survey and issuance of the ITC, there are no ongoing survey requirements, unless the particulars of a ship have changed requiring re-measurement.

#### 5. Ships of less than 24 metres in length

- 5.1. Prior to registration, all ships under 24 metres overall length must be surveyed and issued with a 'Certificate of Survey and Tonnage' specifying the tonnage in accordance with Part III of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2026. The format of the Certificate of Survey and Tonnage is shown in Schedule 1 of this Notice and can be downloaded [here](#).
- 5.2. Ships of less than 24 metres may be surveyed by a Bahamas Recognised Organisation, Bahamas Yacht Survey Organisation, or any surveyor directly appointed by the BMA.
- 5.3. Following initial survey and issuance of the certificate of survey and tonnage there are no ongoing survey requirements, unless the particulars of a ship have changed requiring re-measurement.

#### 6. Alterations resulting in changes to gross and/or net tonnage

- 6.1. In general, as per Regulation 5(1) of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships (ITMC) 1969 and Regulation 11(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2026, a new International Tonnage Certificate shall be issued when alterations in the values of V, V<sub>C</sub>, d, N<sub>1</sub> or N<sub>2</sub>, as defined in Regulations 3 and 4 of ITMC1969, result in an increase in Net tonnage, subject always to regulation 10 of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2026.
- 6.2. If there is no increase of the Net tonnage, the existing certificate should be annotated with details of the new structure and the effect it has on the tonnage. Where

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<sup>1</sup> 24 metres is approximately 78 feet 9 inches

appropriate, such annotation shall be made by the Recognised Organisation. Nothing in this paragraph affects the application of regulation 10 of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2026 in respect of alterations resulting in an increase in gross tonnage.

- 6.3. Where there is an increase in gross tonnage of less than 1% due to alterations or modifications for operational purposes (e.g. installation of ballast water treatment systems, exhaust gas cleaning systems, offshore project equipment etc.), the BMA may permit the existing Tonnage Certificate to be annotated with details of the alterations and their effect on tonnage, and a new certificate need not be issued unless specifically requested by the Owners.
- 6.4. Changes to a ship's name or port of registry, whilst having no effect on tonnage, will require the existing certificate of survey to be amended or re-issued denoting the changes. The BMA should be contacted prior to proceeding with any changes to a ship's name or port of registry

## **7. Queries**

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

**Schedule 1: Form of Certificate of Measurement for Ships of less than 24 metres in length**



**Certificate of Survey (Tonnage Measurement) of a vessel under 24 metres length**

*Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 2026*

<b>Name of Vessel</b>		<b>IMO Number / Official number</b>	
<b>Port of Registry</b>		<b>Whether a sailing, steam or motor ship; if steam or motor ship, how propelled</b>	
<b>Where built</b>	<b>When built</b>	<b>Name and address of builders</b>	
Material used to construct hull:		<b>Overall Length</b>	<b>Metric Units</b>
		<b>Main Breadth</b>	
		<b>Depth</b>	
<b>PARTICULARS OF TONNAGE</b>			
The tonnage of this vessel, as detailed on the back of this certificate is:			
GROSS TONNAGE _____			
( _____ cubic metres)			
I, the undersigned appointed measurer, having measured the above-named vessel, hereby certify that the above particulars are true.			
Dated at _____ (place of measurement)			
this _____ day of _____ 20 _____ Measurer			
Examined by _____		<b>Measurer's Address:</b>	
Date _____			
On behalf of the Bahamas Maritime Authority			

FORM090 - Certificate of Survey (Tonnage Measurement) of a vessel under 24 metres length v1.1

**Certificate of Survey (Tonnage Measurement) of a vessel under 24 metres length**

<b>CERTIFIED EXTRACTS OF PARTICULARS SUPPLIED BY BUILDERS, OWNERS OR ENGINE MAKERS</b>								
<b>No. of sets of engines</b>								
<b>No. of shafts</b>								
<b>Description of engines</b>								
<b>kW</b>								
<b>When Made</b>								
<b>Name and address of makers</b>								
<b>Material used to construct hull</b>								
	<i>Measurer</i>							
<b>TONNAGE CALCULATION</b>								
<b>Length</b>	x	<b>Breadth</b>	x	<b>Depth</b>				<b>Tons</b>
					x	0.16	=	
<b>Break, or breaks, if any, extending from side above line of deck</b>								
<b>Mean Length</b>	x	<b>Mean Breadth</b>	x	<b>Mean Height</b>				<b>B</b>
					x	0.35	=	
<b>GROSS TONNAGE = (BOX A + BOX B)</b>								

FORM090 - Certificate of Survey (Tonnage Measurement) of a vessel under 24 metres length v1.1

