

The applicable rules & regulations for large yachts



01 Large Commercial Yacht Codes

Contains requirements for:
Weather-tight integrity, stability, life-saving appliances, fire-fighting appliances, navigation equipment, radio installation, manning, safety management, etc.

Requirements apply to:
Yachts of 24 metres load line length & over, and under 3,000GT, chartering with up to 12 passengers registered in countries that have adopted the Codes (Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Isle of Man, Italy, Marshall Islands, UK, etc.)

Certificate(s) issued:
Certificate of Compliance
International Load Lines Certificate
Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate (yachts of 300GT & over)
Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate (yachts of 500GT & over)
Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate (yachts of 500GT & over)
Safety Management Certificate (yachts of 500GT & over)
International Ship Security Certificate (yachts of 500GT & over)
Minimum Safe Manning Document (yachts of 500GT & over)

Comments:
The codes contain yacht-focused requirements equivalent to those of Load Lines, SOLAS & STCW. These include reduced coaming heights & reduced requirements for use of non-combustible materials, but these are offset against enhanced damage stability & fire prevention/protection requirements respectively. The Red Ensign Group's LY2 also contains requirements specifically for short range yachts under 300GT operating within 60 miles of land in winds of Beaufort Force 4 & less

02 MARPOL Convention (Annexes I, IV, V & VI)

Contains requirements for:
Minimising pollution of the marine environment

Requirements apply to:
All vessels (including private yachts)

Certificate(s) issued:
International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate (yachts of 400GT & over)
International Sewage Pollution Prevention Certificate (yachts of 400GT & over or carrying more than 15 persons)
International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate (yachts of 400GT & over)
Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate

Comments:
Annex I (oil pollution): an approved oily water separator is required on yachts of 400GT & over
Annex IV (sewage pollution): an approved sewage treatment plant is required for yachts of 400GT & over or those carrying more than 15 persons
Annex V (garbage pollution): a garbage management plan is required on all yachts of 400GT & over or those carrying more than 15 persons
Annex VI (air pollution): all new engines (including generators) of 130 kW/175 bhp are to be certificated for compliance with SOx & NOx requirements. Only fuel of the correct chemical composition is to be used, & bunker delivery notes are to be retained onboard for a minimum of 3 years

03 International Tonnage Convention

Contains requirements for:
Establishing the Gross & Net Tonnages

Requirements apply to:
All vessels of 24 metres in length & over (including private yachts)

Certificate(s) issued:
International Tonnage Certificate

Comments:
The deadweight or displacement/weight of a vessel is not reflected in the Gross (GT) or Net (NT) Tonnages. The calculation of the Gross Tonnage is based on the moulded volume of all enclosed spaces of the vessel. Due to the change in requirements in some of the other conventions & codes at 500GT & 3,000GT, there is a natural tendency to design yachts as close as possible to these thresholds, causing some regulators to pay special attention to them

04 COLREGS Convention

Contains requirements for:
Steering & sailing, navigation lights, shapes & sound signals

Requirements apply to:
All vessels (including private yachts)

Certificate(s) issued:
None

Comments:
The single masthead light required on motoryachts less than 50 metres length overall must be forward of the sidelights & amidships. All yachts 50 metres length overall & above must have two masthead lights, one in the forward quarter. Not all flag States enforce these requirements for private yachts but most do for charter yachts

05 International Load Lines Convention

Contains requirements for:
Weather-tight integrity, water-freeing arrangements, loading limitations/freeboard

Requirements apply to:
Commercial vessels (including charter & commercially registered yachts over 24 metres)

Certificate(s) issued:
International Load Line Certificate

Comments:
Yachts do not easily comply with various requirements of this convention, such as those for hatch & door coamings/sills. The minimum heights are lower in the Large Yacht Codes but single compartment damage stability criteria must be met. Freeboard & draft marks must be permanently marked

06 Classification Society rules & regulations

Contains requirements for:
Hull (including materials & welding), machinery, electrical & control systems. Some also have rules for stability & fire-fighting

Requirements apply to:
Commercial vessels (including all charter yachts of 500GT & over, & all Red Ensign Group (MCA, BVI, CI, IoM, etc.) charter yachts over 24m)

Certificate(s) issued:
Certificate of Class

Comments:
There is a significant choice between the rules of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Bureau Veritas (BV), Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Germanischer Lloyd (GL), Lloyd's Register (LR), Registro Italiano Navale (RINA) & numerous others. A compliant yacht is said to be 'classed'. Most new large private yachts are classed voluntarily

07 STCW Convention & Code

Contains requirements for:
Crew training & qualifications

Requirements apply to:
Crew of commercial vessels (including charter & commercially registered yachts)

Certificate(s) issued:
Certificate of Competency

Comments:
As the convention & code do not contain any qualifications specifically for yachts, the UK government (MCA) has developed equivalent qualifications. However, these qualifications cannot be used on yachts of 3,000GT & over or those chartering with more than 12 passengers

*** These requirements are for private yachts carrying 12 guests or fewer. The flag State of yachts carrying more than this number should be contacted to establish their exact requirements. Alternatively, contact Manta Maritime for assistance**

08 ISM Code

Contains requirements for:
Safety management systems

Requirements apply to:
Commercial vessels (including charter & commercially registered yachts of 500GT & over & those of any size chartering with more than 12 passengers)

Certificate(s) issued:
Safety Management Certificate
Document of Compliance (for the management company)

Comments:
This code need not be difficult to comply with as long as care is taken to ensure the documented procedures accurately reflect the actual onboard procedures, providing they comply with the relevant requirements. Procedures need only be limited to operations related to safety & pollution prevention, but a safety management system may cover all aspects of the yacht's operation if desired. Compliance with this Code is a requirement of SOLAS Chapter IX (Management for the safe operation of ships)

CHARTER YACHTS
Less than 3,000GT
Less than or equal to 12 passengers

01 Large Commercial Yacht Codes

OR

11 SOLAS Convention (Cargo Ships)

02 MARPOL Convention

03 International Tonnage Convention

04 COLREGS Convention

10 SOLAS Convention (General)

05 Load Lines

06 Classification Society rules & regulations

07 STCW Convention & Code

08 ISM Code

09 ISPS Code

PRIVATE YACHTS*

CHARTER YACHTS
More than or equal to 3,000GT
Less than or equal to 12 passengers

12 SOLAS Convention (Passenger Ships)

CHARTER YACHTS
Any GT
More than 12 passengers

09 ISPS Code

Contains requirements for:
Ship & port security

Requirements apply to:
Commercial vessels (including charter & commercially registered yachts of 500GT & over & those of any size chartering with more than 12 passengers) and port facilities serving vessels on international voyages

Certificate(s) issued:
International Ship Security Certificate

Comments:
This code is perhaps not particularly well-suited to yachts due to the different capacities in which they operate (standing-by, private use or chartering) & the varied port facilities used by yachts, but compliance need not be prohibitively difficult. Care should be taken when performing the Ship Security Assessment, to ensure the resulting Ship Security Plan is not overly impractical to follow. Compliance with this Code is a requirement of SOLAS Chapter XI-2 (Special measures to enhance maritime security)

10 SOLAS Convention (General)

Contains requirements for:
Surveys, certificates, casualties, navigational equipment, bridge visibility, charts & publications, etc.

Requirements apply to:
All vessels (including private yachts)

Certificate(s) issued:
None

Comments:
Chapters I (General Provisions) & V (Safety of Navigation) of this convention apply to all vessels, although their requirements are not generally enforced by flag States for private yachts. Despite this lack of enforcement, the crew of private yachts should at least be familiar with the operational requirements of Chapter V

11 SOLAS Convention (Cargo Ships)

Contains requirements for:
Stability, structure, bilge pumping, steering gear, fire fighting & protection, life-saving appliances, radio, navigation equipment, etc.

Requirements apply to:
Commercial vessels of 500GT & over carrying up to 12 passengers (including charter & commercially registered yachts). See below for more details

Certificate(s) issued:
Cargo Ship Safety Construction Certificate
Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate
Cargo Ship Safety Radio Certificate
Minimum Safe Manning Document

Comments:
Charter & commercially registered yachts carrying 12 or less passengers are treated as cargo ships by the SOLAS convention. Yachts generally have too many combustible materials used in the interior outfit to comply with the convention's requirements for fire protection, which is why compliance with the Large Commercial Yacht Codes is the popular alternative. Chapter IV (Radio communications) applies to charter & commercially registered yachts of 300GT & over. See also ISM & ISPS Codes

12 SOLAS Convention (Passenger Ships)

Contains requirements for:
Stability, structure, bilge pumping, steering gear, fire fighting & protection, life-saving appliances, radio, navigation equipment, etc.

Requirements apply to:
Commercial vessels of any GT carrying more than 12 passengers (including charter & commercially registered yachts)

Certificate(s) issued:
Passenger Ship Safety Certificate
Minimum Safe Manning Document

Comments:
These requirements are significantly more difficult to meet than the Large Commercial Yacht Codes & SOLAS (Cargo Ships) due to enhanced requirements for subdivision, fire-fighting & life-saving appliances. Full compliance with these requirements is currently unavoidable as there are no formalised equivalent requirements available yet for yachts wanting to charter with more than 12 guests. See also ISM & ISPS Codes

About us

Manta Maritime was created in early 2006 in response to the luxury yachting industry's demand for expert help with all aspects of safety and regulatory compliance. Our previous experience as Class Society and Flag Administration surveyors has proven to be invaluable to many designers, yards, managers, owners and crew, by helping them to comply with the mandatory rules and regulations in the most cost-effective and least invasive way

Since successfully establishing ourselves in this field we have diversified into providing Mini ISM, ISM and ISPS safety and security management systems, acting as owner's representatives for new-build projects, performing plan reviews, steelwork inspections, acting as arbitrators for dispute resolution, and performing pre-purchase condition assessments

For more details of the services we provide please visit www.mantamaritime.com

- Regulatory compliance assistance
- New-build supervision and steelwork inspections
- Contract, specification and plan reviews
- Pre-purchase condition assessments
- Stability books and inclining experiments
- Safety management systems for Mini ISM, ISM and ISPS Codes