
The Passenger Yacht Code

Notice to all designers, builders, managers, operators, skippers and crew of Passenger Yachts

This MIN expires 31 December 2014

Summary

The Passenger Yacht Code (2nd Edition), has been published. The Code provides an equivalent standard to SOLAS, Load Line and STCW Conventions for passenger yachts carrying up to 36 passengers.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Passenger Yacht Code was first published in November 2010 by the Red Ensign Group of maritime administrations, under the chairmanship of the Cayman Islands Shipping Registry. The Passenger Yacht Code (2nd Edition) is dated January 2012 and supersedes the edition dated 10 November 2010.

1.2 A copy of the Code can be downloaded from <http://redensigngroup.org/publications.aspx>.

1.3 The Passenger Yacht Code will continue to be regularly updated to ensure it reflects amendments to international conventions.

2. Application

2.1 The Passenger Yacht Code is applicable to yachts carrying between 13 and 36 passengers.

2.2 The Code provides standards for four types of passenger yachts:

- Pleasure vessels not engaged in trade;
- Passenger Yacht Unrestricted (Engaged in Trade);
- PY1 – on a Prescribed International Voyage during which the yacht is not more than 200 nautical miles from a port or place in which the passengers and crew could be placed in safety and within geographical area which limits the length of the voyage to a maximum of 1000 nautical miles from the initial point of departure; and

- PY2 – within 60 nautical miles of a safe haven and not more than 20 miles from land in weather conditions not exceeding wind force 6 and sea state 5 on Beaufort scale.

2.3 The PYC is closely based on the international requirements for ships carrying up to 36 passengers laid down in the SOLAS Convention, but seeks to provide equivalent ways to meet those safety standards that protect the essential features of a luxury yacht. Nevertheless designers and builders need to be aware that the requirements are quite different in many important ways to those of the Large Yacht Codes (LY2 and LY3) which apply to yachts carrying up to 12 passengers, and which meet international requirements for non-passenger ships.

3. Equivalence

3.1 The United Kingdom has accepted the Passenger Yacht Code as an equivalent to the standards for passenger ships carrying up to 36 passengers of the following international conventions:

- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 (SOLAS 1974), as amended;
- International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (LL 1966), as amended; and
- International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, 1978 (STCW 1978), as amended;

including applicable Protocols and Codes thereto. The acceptance of the Passenger Yacht Code by the United Kingdom as an equivalent standard to the above named conventions has been notified to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Such acceptance has also been extended to the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

3.2 The IMO issued Circular letter No. 3171 on the 4 March 2011 which confirms the notification made by the United Kingdom.

4. Certification

4.1 Section 1.4 of the PYC provides a list of certificates that will be issued to the yacht; who may conduct the surveys; and who may issue the certificates. United Kingdom vessels will be issued SOLAS Passenger Ship Safety Certificates and International Load Line Certificates, together with exemption certificates noting that the vessels comply with the PYC as an equivalent standard, in accordance with IMO Circular Letter 3171.

5. Requests for survey

5.1 If you would like to discuss the survey of a Passenger Yacht, please contact the MCA's Ensign - Large Yacht Services on +44 (0) 191 4969916 or large.yachts@mca.gov.uk. Other Red Ensign Group maritime administrations also provide survey and registration services for Passenger Yachts.

More Information

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