



Conditions for yacht registration or renewal of registration

1. General

Only pleasure craft that are built and equipped for navigating the high seas may be entered in the registry of Swiss seagoing yachts.

Vessels which, according to their design, construction and equipment, lack the seaworthiness required to navigate the high seas cannot be entered as yachts in the registry of Swiss seagoing yachts, however they may be registered as small and coastal craft in the registry. Instead of a certificate of registry they will be issued a proof of registration, which entitles and obliges them to fly the Swiss flag in foreign territorial waters. Such vessels are namely boats which, according to their design, are referred to as 'small craft' (e.g. coastal craft as per EC cat. C). The corresponding information and forms are available for download on the SMNO's website.

The commercial transport of persons or goods on Swiss seagoing yachts is prohibited. Within the scope of the Yachts Ordinance, the commercial transport of persons or goods is deemed to occur if any form of remuneration is paid for such transport which is intended to cover more than the proportional ordinary costs of operation during the period of transport. Any kind of compensation, including, but not limited to, a payment in cash or benefit in kind, shall be deemed to be remuneration.

A Swiss pleasure craft may be lent to foreign users on an occasional basis, as long as the regulations regarding the nationality of owners are not circumvented by this. Commercial letting is prohibited. Commercial letting is deemed to occur if a payment (rent) is made in any form intended to cover more than the ordinary costs of operation during the period of letting. Owners remain responsible and liable for all operations. They shall be liable in accordance with the provisions of the Navigation Act and the Yachts Ordinance.

2. Proof of third-party liability insurance

Owners must provide proof of third-party liability insurance coverage for the whole duration of registration. The relevant provisions and references can be downloaded from the SMNO's website.

3. Proof of ownership

Proof of the yacht's ownership must be provided to the SMNO by documentary evidence such as e.g. the bill of sale, contracts, heritage and/or gift declarations etc. In the case of self-built craft, the corresponding SMNO references will be taken into consideration; these are available for download from the SMNO's website.

In cases of co-ownership, proof of the relevant share of ownership must be provided to the SMNO, along with the respective contracts and power of representation. These can be downloaded from the SMNO's website.

4. Nationality

Owners must be Swiss citizens or a Swiss club/association with the purpose of serving the goals of Swiss maritime navigation. Dual citizens are only eligible to register their craft if they are domiciled in

Switzerland. EU-/EFTA citizens may apply for registration if they hold a valid Swiss residence permit, issued on the basis of Swiss/EU free movement of persons / EFTA agreements (EU/EFTA-permit).

5. Foreign influence or foreign registration

In submitting an application for registration or renewal, owners declare to the SMNO that the yacht is not registered in any other foreign official registry, nor such registration is currently or shall in the future be initiated during the period of registration with the SMNO and that no foreign influence is hidden.

6. Seaworthiness, equipment and measurement

Proof of the boat's seaworthiness must be provided. Therefore, the relevant form ("Seaworthiness certificate for yacht registration" or "Seaworthiness certificate for renewal of the certificate of registry"; available on the SMNO's website) must be completed/endorsed by the ship owner and an independent expert. The guidelines for the equipment of Swiss seagoing yachts must be observed. These can be downloaded from the SMNO's website.

Alternatively a corresponding survey statement by a classification society recognised by the SMNO may be provided. For boats with a tonnage of **150 GT or more this is mandatory**. In special cases, the SMNO may also require a survey statement by a recognised classification society for yachts under 150 GT. The list of classification societies recognised by the SMNO can be downloaded from the SMNO's website.

For yachts with an overall length of 24 metres or more, a tonnage certificate issued in accordance with international rules must be submitted to the SMNO. The overall length is determined according to the definition of the Tonnage Convention (Art. 2 No. 8).¹

This corresponding ship measurement in accordance with international rules along with issuance of the associated tonnage certificate is provided by all classification societies recognised by the SMNO and by various foreign port and maritime authorities, including the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (www.bsh.de).

7. Certificate of Registry

Every change in particulars mentioned in the certificate of registry must be reported and the certificate sent to the SMNO immediately. Amendments may only be made by the SMNO. The certificate cannot be transferred to new owners. In case of change(s) in ownership a new certificate must be applied for.

8. Maritime radio communication

The Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM) of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) is responsible for the telecommunications regulations for maritime navigation under the Swiss flag. If a yacht is equipped with appropriate transmitting and/or receiving equipment (e.g. VHF radio, radar, AIS, EPIRB, etc.), an application for a ship station licence or allocation of a maritime radio identification (call sign, MMSI or Atis) must be submitted (see also <https://www.bakom.admin.ch/>, => Frequencies and antennas => Frequency use with or without licences => Maritime radio).

9. VAT and customs

Information regarding VAT and customs declaration and clearances for Swiss seagoing yachts can be obtained directly from the relevant foreign authorities and the Swiss representations abroad.

¹ In accordance with the rules of the international convention on tonnage measurement of ships 1969 (SR 0.747.305.412)

10. Fees

The costs for an initial registration amount to CHF 1,250.00 (checking of all documentation, entry into the registry database, issuance of the certificate of registry *for three years*) plus postage.

The costs for a renewal of the certificate of registration amount to CHF 150.00 per year. The certificate may be extended upon application for a maximum period of three years (= CHF 450.00).

11. Submission of the application and processing time

Applications for new registration or renewal of a certificate of registry for a yacht must be submitted electronically via www.smno-mares.eda.admin.ch. An account must be created for this purpose. Instructions are available on the SMNO's website ([Online services SMNO](#)).

Electronic submissions by email will not be processed. Incomplete applications will not be processed or will be rejected. The usual processing time is approximately two weeks.

Necessary attachments to the application (Art. 5 ff. of the Swiss Yachts Ordinance; SR 747.321.7):

- 1) Proof of third-party liability insurance coverage
- 2) Technical details of the vessel and confirmation of unrestricted seaworthiness for the relevant cruising area with the associated equipment:
 - a. For first-time or re-application for registration and issue of a certificate of registry: "Seaworthiness certificate for yacht registration" form
 - b. For the extension of an existing certificate of registry: "Seaworthiness Certificate for Renewal of the certificate of registry" form
- 3) For seagoing ships with diesel engines of 130 kW or more (keel laying or major engine modifications after 1.1.2000): Engine International Air Pollution Prevention Certificate (EIAPP Certificate with NOx Technical File; the certificate is issued by the class)

Additionally, only in case of a first-time or re-application for registration and issuance of a certificate of registry or in case of change(s) of ownership:

- 4) Copies of Swiss passports / Swiss ID cards (both sides) or Swiss residence permits (both sides).
- 5) Residential address, telephone and email of all owners.
- 6) Proof of ownership (purchase contracts, invoices and payment receipts, notice(s) of inheritance or gift, etc.)
- 7) For dual citizens: Swiss certificate(s) of residence
- 8) If the yacht was previously or is currently registered with another registry: certificate of deletion in the foreign register.
- 9) Only in cases of co-ownership: "Co-ownership and power of representation" form.
- 10) Only in cases of associations as owners: articles of association, extract from the commercial register, list of members and executive bodies with details of nationality and place of residence.