



Conditions for 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.

Commercial use, e.g. carriage of persons and goods, is not allowed for Swiss seagoing yachts. Commercial use is defined by the full or partial income of the owners by revenues from the operation of the yacht. However, if the operation is not aimed at gaining any income, e.g. only to cover operational expenses and maintenance costs (such as surveys and maintenance, repairs, fuel and lubricants, salaries of employees, capital cost with average depreciation), non-commercial use must be assumed, and consequently this is allowed.

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 boat'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

Upon application for registration or renewal, owners must declare to the SMNO that the boat 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. Equipment, measurement and seaworthiness

Proof of the boat's seaworthiness must be provided. Therefore, form 1A or 1B must be filled in by the owners and an independent expert and provided to the SMNO along with the application, taking into account the guidelines for equipment of Swiss seagoing yachts. 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**. The list of classification societies recognised by the SMNO can be downloaded from the SMNO's website.

For boats allowed to carry 15 or more persons aboard, powered with more than 750 kW in total, more than 100 GT or a total length of more than 20 metres, an international tonnage measurement certificate must be provided.¹

This measurement is provided e.g. by all classification societies recognised by the SMNO and by many foreign port and maritime authorities, e.g. also by the German Federal Navigation and Hydrographic Office. (www.bsh.de)

Exemptions can be granted by the SMNO upon request for boats carrying fewer than 15 persons, if it can be deemed certain that the relevant values as set out in the international convention on tonnage measurement of ships amount to less than 24 metres in length, respectively less than 100 GT.

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 regulations for maritime radio communication from Swiss seagoing yachts are overseen by the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM) of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC). In cases where a boat is fitted with relevant communication equipment (e.g. VHF radio, radar, AIS, EPIRB etc.), an application must be made for a ship radio station licence and assignment of a marine radio communication identity (MMSI). [ref. <https://www.bakom.admin.ch/>, => Frequencies and Antennas => Frequency use => Maritime radio communication]

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.

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).

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



11. Submission of the application and processing time

Applications must be submitted electronically via www.smno-mares.eda.admin.ch. An account must be created by the applicants. Guidance is published on the SMNO's website ([Online services SMNO](#)).

Submissions via email cannot be considered. Incorrect or incomplete applications will be rejected. Usual processing time amounts to about ten working days.

Attachments (in accordance with Art. 5 ff. of the Swiss Yacht Regulations):

- 1) Proof of third-party liability insurance coverage
- 2) Technical details of the boat and confirmation of its seaworthiness according to the area of operation and equipment:
For initial registration and issuance of a certificate of registry:
 - a. **Annex 1A** for the initial registration of a yacht
For the extension of an existing certificate of registry:
 - b. **Annex 1B** for registration renewal

Additionally, only in case of initial or new request for registration or in case of change(s) in ownership:

- 3) Copies of Swiss passports / ID cards (both sides), or of the residence permits with relevant contact information: domicile address, telephone, e-mail
- 4) Proof of ownership (contracts, bills and receipts, heritage or gift declaration(s) etc.)
- 5) For dual-citizens: proof of Swiss residence / domicile
- 6) If the yacht is or has been previously registered with another registry: certificate of deletion
- 7) Only in case of co-ownership: declaration of co-ownership and power of representation to the SMNO
- 8) For clubs / associations as owners only: Bylaws, extract from the commercial register and list of members and executives (indicating their nationality and domicile)

Fees/costs: in accordance with the Federal Regulations on Maritime Navigation Fees [SR. 747.312.4], ref. Pt. 10