

Dominica

The Commonwealth of Dominica is an English speaking country located in the Eastern Caribbean, between Martinique and Guadeloupe.

The population of Dominica is approximately 72,000. The capital city is Roseau. The country's infrastructure is good with excellent water, power and communications. There are direct dial facilities worldwide via fibre optic undersea cable; and Internet and data transmission facilities are readily available.

Dominica has been called the "nature island" of the Caribbean. Forests cover over 60% of the country and the hills and valleys are spectacular. There are over 365 rivers and the country has hot springs and the world's largest boiling lake, which endows it with tremendous potential for geo-thermal energy and/or spa development.

The Maritime Administration Unit, located in Roseau, Dominica, oversees and regulates the administration of the sector and the Dominica Maritime Registry; the Dominica Marine Registry based in Washington is the sole International Ship Registry for Dominica.

Incentives

- Organizing its operation based on comprehensive advice from IMO hence there is a very good relationship;
- International recognised expertise;
- Dominica does not levy taxes on the income or assets of its IBCs or a Foreign Maritime Corporation, which flies the Dominican flag;
- Maintenance fees are assessed on the anniversary of the incorporation of the company;
- The Flag is one of responsibility not convenience.

Eligibility for Registration

Vessels must be owned by a Dominica corporation, partnership, or citizen, or national. International owners are eligible to register as Foreign Maritime Entities.

Any commercial vessel on an International voyage can be registered under the Dominica International Maritime Registry.

Vessels should not be more than 20 years of age at the time of registration. However, vessels older than 20 years may be granted a waiver for registration on application accompanied by written confirmation from vessel's Classification Society that the vessel is in class and all relevant statutory certificates will be issued. Vessels of 15 years of age and older should submit a status report of the vessel's latest special survey.

Vessels classed outside of IACS member societies will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Provisional Registration

Provisional Certificates of Registry are issued once Dominica has received the following

documents in triplicate.

- Application for Registration;
- Bill of Sale;
- If pre-existing corporation, application for waiver requirements to be listed as Foreign Marine Entity;
- Power of Attorney (to Mansoc Shipping Services Ltd.);
- Oath of owner ;
- Waiver of age if vessel is over 20 years of age;
- DOC/SMC from previous flag administration for vessels >500 GRT;
- ISSC / CSR from previous flag administration for vessels >500 GRT.
- Copies of statutory certificates.
- Copy of previous patent and minimum safe manning.

Provisional patent of registration, radio license and minimum safe manning are valid for 3 months

Permanent Registration

Permanent Certificates of Registry are issued once Dominica has received and processed the following documentation.

- Original notarised Bill of Sale;
- Original Deletion Certificate from previous administration;
- Statutory and class certificates issued on behalf of Dominica administration;
- DOC/SMC issued on behalf of Dominica administration for vessels >500 GRT;
- Affirmation of Markings.;

Yacht Registration

The Dominica Yacht Registry has been designed for Yacht owners seeking to operate under the advantages of an open registry, while understanding that today's commercial yachts may be required to comply with many international standards such as the STCW Code and SOLAS, private yachts may be exempt. Our goal is to operate this yacht registry as the premier international yacht registry, providing a benefit and service to owners serving as benefit to an owner, and serve as an elite group of pleasure vessels complying with standards above of the industry norm.

Our annual Yacht Inspection service is based on standards generated by Lloyd's Register.

Bareboat Registration

Foreign vessels may be bareboat charter registered, flying the Dominica flag and following Dominica law with regard to operations.

Mortgage Registration

Mortgages are recorded by Dominica and are recognised by the international banking community.

Fishing Vessel

Dominica provides registry services for fishing vessels. Fishing vessels must comply with the International Convention for Safety of Fishing vessels 1977 and to carry GMDSS transponders.

Seafarer Documents - Endorsements

The Dominica License and Mariner Documentation and Certification system has been designed to specifically comply with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarer's (STCW), 1978, as amended, 1995.

Candidates for certificates of competence are required to have completed an "approved education and training" (professional development) program. This, combined with the required sea-service of not less than one year as part of an approved program, which includes on board training that meets the requirements in the respective tables in the Section A-I/6 paragraph 1 of the STCW Code and is documented in an approved training record book under the supervision of a qualified instructor/assessor may qualify for certification. A written examination will be required to ensure that the requisite knowledge has been met.

License and Documentation Certification, will be issued by an "Endorsement Program" as prescribed under Regulation I/2 of the STCW Convention. It should be noted that a traditional "Chain of Command" exists within our licensing and documentation program. While there are more levels of competence that differ from the STCW Certificate of Competence, the first requisite of competence must meet the minimum standards for STCW 95 before the traditional upgrading process can be started.

Company Formation

Company formation can be obtained in 24 hours under the International Business Companies Act of 1988 for international business companies (IBCs). All companies are required to have at least one director. Annual meetings need not be held in Dominica. There are no nationality or domicile restrictions for directors. To form an IBC, only one shareholder is required and there is no minimum capital requirement. Corporations may act as shareholders. Dominica requires no capital minimum or annual returns. To incorporate a Dominica company, you must provide the following information: corporation name, share capital, and number of initial directors; directors need not be listed by name, nor must the company state a specific purpose of incorporation. Each non-resident domestic corporation must have a registered agent and address in Dominica. Companies can hold annual directors meetings anywhere in the world, and officers, owners, and directors' names need not be disclosed. Payment of an annual fee ensures the corporation remains a company in good standing.

A company formed under another jurisdiction may be registered as a Foreign Maritime Entity in Dominica for the purpose of registering its vessels under the Dominica flag. These entities must comply with the laws of the jurisdiction in which they are formed.

Authorised Classification Societies

- American Bureau of Shipping
- Bureau Veritas
- China Classification Society
- Cyprus Bureau of Shipping
- Det Norske Veritas
- Germanischer Lloyd
- Indian Register of Shipping
- Korea Register of Shipping
- Lloyd's Register
- Nippon Kaijai Kyokai (NK)
- Polski Rejestr Statkow
- Russian Maritime Register of Shipping

Approved on case by case basis:

- Inclamar
- International Naval Surveys Bureau
- R.J. Del Pan Marine Surveyors