

Jamaica

Jamaica is located approximately 145 km south of Cuba and in the centre of the Caribbean Sea. The island is the third largest of the Caribbean Islands. The island is 280 miles long and 80 miles wide and has 2.5 million inhabitants. "Out of Many, One People" is the nation's motto.

Jamaica's ship registry was officially launched in Kingston in October 2000, with subsequent launches in London and New York.

The opening of the ship registry allows shipowners worldwide to register their vessels under the Jamaican Flag and to take advantage of significant incentives granted under the Shipping Act. The Shipping Act provides a modern statutory framework within which maritime law may be practised consistent with international maritime treaties and conventions, as well as with accepted international standards of maritime safety and marine pollution prevention. The creation of a ship registry within that framework lays the foundation for Jamaica to become a leader within the international maritime community. The registry has already enhanced Jamaica's international maritime reputation, and the anticipated development of ancillary services is expected to further enhance that reputation.

Incentives

- No taxes on profits, capital gains, dividends, or salaries;
- Discounts on Initial or Annual fees for:
 - Fleet registration;
 - Home porting of cruise vessels;
 - Passenger vessels exceeding 10,000 gross tonnes;
 - Consistent adherence to safety standards;
 - The technical management and operation of vessels from Jamaica;
 - Use of Jamaican seafarers;
 - Vessels under 10 years old;
- No nationality restrictions on officers or crew;
- Crew certification from IMO "white listed" countries recognized;
- Reduced port dues and other facilitation benefits in Russian Federation Ports with other agreements being negotiated;
- Network of Embassies and Consuls worldwide to provide support to Jamaican ships;
- Double Taxation Agreements with many countries (USA, Canada, UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, China, Israel, France and Caribbean Community countries);
- Skilled and efficient registry staff to serve your needs;
- Waiver of sovereignty.

Eligibility for Registration

No restrictions on the nationality of individuals or entities that may own Jamaican ships.

The following are qualified to own a Jamaican ship:

- Citizens of Jamaica;
- Commonwealth Citizens;

- Bodies Corporate established in Jamaica and having a place of business, managing owner or agent in Jamaica;
- Partnerships and Limited Partnerships established in Jamaica and has business or managing owner or agent in Jamaica;
- Foreign Maritime Entities and foreign companies established in a jurisdiction other than Jamaica and having a managing owner or agent in Jamaica. Foreign entity includes partnerships or limited partnerships established on a jurisdiction Jamaica.

Any ships, regardless of the nationality of its owners, or in the case of a body corporate maritime entity as owner, the country where such owner is incorporated or established as a Jamaican ship provided it is a sea-going ship of at least 24 meters in length, is en foreign-going trade and has a managing owner or agent in Jamaica.

Provisional Registration

The Minimum document that needs to be in place to facilitate the vessel being provisionally registered are:

- Notice of Name of Ship;
- Application for Registration;
- Conformation from classification society that vessel is in class as well as validity and expiration dates of the certificates. Confirmation to indicate exemptions and conditions pertaining to the certificate;
- Declaration of Ownership;
- Appointment of Agent or Managing Owner;
- Certifies copy of International Tonnage Certificate (ITC) from previous registration;
- Deletion certificates from previous registry;
- Consent of Mortgagee for vessel to be registered;
- Bill of Sale or Builder's Certificate.

Permanent Registration

- Application for Registration;
- Declaration of Ownership;
- Builder's Certificate and or Bill of Sale or Condemnation Order;
- Deletion, cancellation or de-registration certificate (if ship was previously registered);
- Notice of Name Of Ship;
- Appointment of Managing Owner or Agent;
- Safety Certificates and crew documents (Safety construction certificates; Load lines, IOPP and certificate of Financial Responsibility, Radio, Safety Equipment, Minimum safe manning certificate, ISM and SMC where applicable);
- Written allocation for MMSI number and Radio Call Sign;
- Certificate of Survey;
- Carving and Marking Note duly completed;
- Consent of mortgagee for registration;
- Certificate of Company Incorporation and Certificate of Good Standing;

- International Tonnage Certificate.

Bareboat in Registration

- Consent of Shipowners, Underlying Registry and Mortgage;
- Application of Bareboat Charter;
- Declaration of Bareboat Charter indicating that the charterer is qualified to own a Jamaican ship;
- Transcript of underlying registry;
- Bareboat Charter Party;
- Appointment of authorised Agent (where appropriate);
- Consent for change of name (where applicable);
- Written application for MMSI number and Radio Call Sign;
- Certificate of Survey;
- Carving and Marking Note duly completed;
- Consent of Mortgage for registration;
- Certificate of Company Incorporation and Certificate of Good Standing;
- International Tonnage Certificate.

Bareboat out Registration

- Application for Bareboat Charter Registration in a Foreign Registry;
- Consent in writing of mortgages (where applicable);
- Written undertaking by owner to surrender the Jamaican Certificate of Registry;
- Undertaking by charterer that the Jamaican flag shall not be displayed during the period of bareboat charter registration;
- Copy of the bareboat charter party.

Seafarer Documents - Endorsements

Under the Shipping Act 1998, the MAJ is responsible for establishing the standards of Training, Examination and Certification for seafarers, trained at Jamaica's maritime training college, the Caribbean Maritime Institute. The MAJ administers the programme, approves the syllabus for training all seafarers' and ensures strict compliance with STCW 78/95 standards.

Jamaica is one of the first countries to have effectively implemented the STCW Convention and was named on the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) "White List" published in November 2000.

The MAJ's Directorate of Safety, Environment and Certification (DSEC) maintains the necessary database and records for issuing STCW 1995 compliant Certificates. The requirements under the Jamaican Law is that all seafarers working on Jamaican vessels must be qualified for the duties they will be performing and additionally officers must hold a Jamaican Certificate of Competency or be issued with a Jamaican Endorsement issued on an equivalency basis. To facilitate this process the MAJ has entered into Reciprocal Recognition agreements with major crewing countries. The MCA in the United Kingdom has accorded recognition to Jamaican Seafarers' certification and recently this was also endorsed by the European Union (EU). All

countries listed on the IMO published ‘White List’ will be considered for Reciprocal Recognition. Special ship Registry incentives are offered for the employment of holders of Jamaican Certificates of Competency.

Company Formation

A foreign owners, irrespective of nationality or place of incorporation, is entitled to own a Jamaican registered ship, but some foreign owners may find it useful nevertheless to incorporate a Jamaican company for this purpose.

Authorised Classification Societies

The Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ) recognises the following Classification Societies:

- American Bureau of Shipping
- Det Norske Veritas
- Bureau Veritas
- China Classification Society
- Cyprus Bureau of Shipping (CBS) (up to 3000 GRT)
- Germanischer Lloyd
- Korean Register of Shipping
- Maritime Register of Shipping (Exclusive to Russian-owned ships)
- Nippon Kaiji Kyokai
- Registro Italiano Navale

Jamaica is signatory to the major international maritime conventions and works closely with the Classification Societies to expedite IMO convention certification.