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Circular Letter No.4558
4 May 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Poland**

The Government of the Republic of Poland has sent the attached communication, dated 26 April 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.



REPUBLIC OF POLAND
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Warsaw, 26th April, 2022

His Excellency Kitack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization

Notification by Poland – new Polish register of yachts and other watercraft of less than 24m in length and legal requirements for sea-going yachts flying the Polish flag

Secretary General,

The Government of Poland has the honour to inform IMO of the new provisions regarding Register of yachts and other watercraft of less than 24 m in length and legal requirements of sea-going yachts flying the Polish flag.

The above-stated information is included in the attachment to this letter.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,
Marek Gróbarczyk
Secretary of State
Ministry of Infrastructure

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POLAND
THE CENTENARY
OF REGAINING
INDEPENDENCE

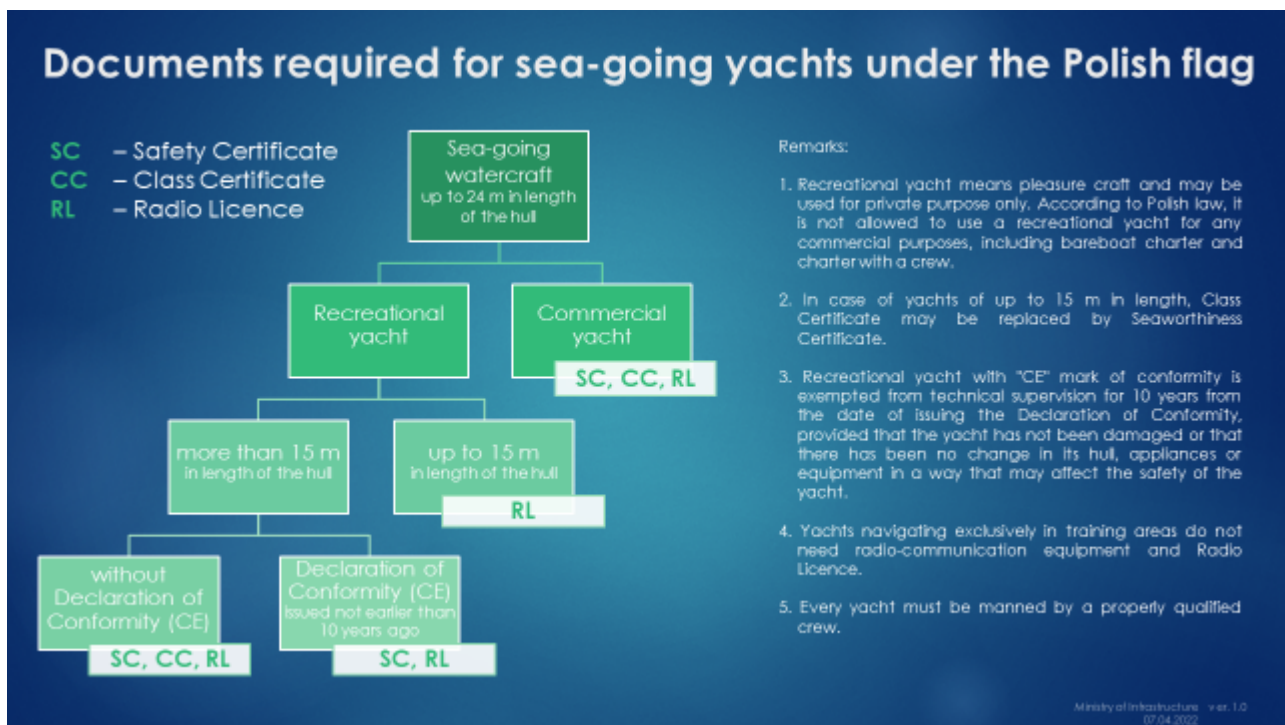
Polish register of yachts and other watercraft of less than 24 m in length and legal requirements for sea-going yachts flying the Polish flag

The Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland would like to inform of the provisions on registration of yachts and other watercraft of less than 24 m in length and of the legal requirements and documents of sea-going yachts of less than 24 m in length flying the Polish flag.

The provisions of the Act of 12 April 2018 on registration of yachts and other watercraft of less than 24 m in length (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 1500) apply to recreational craft intended for sports and leisure purposes, both recreational and commercial, and do not apply to any passenger ships understood as ships carrying more than 12 passengers on board.

The Watercraft Registration Certificate confirms the Polish nationality of the watercraft and specifies whether the yacht is registered as a recreational or commercial vessel. Recreational yacht means pleasure craft and may only be used for private purposes. According to Polish law, using a recreational yacht for any commercial purposes, including bareboat charter or charter with a crew, is not allowed.

Registration alone is not sufficient for a yacht to be legally operated. A sea-going yacht needs to meet specific safety and technical requirements specified by Polish law, confirmed by an appropriate document (see the graphic below), and shall be manned by a properly qualified crew.



Yacht Safety Certificate

The Yacht Safety Certificate is issued under Article 23.1 of Act of 18 August 2011 on Maritime Safety (Journal of Laws of 2022, item 515) after a safety inspection by the Director of Maritime Office competent for the yacht's port of registry. The Polish Register of Shipping (PRS) is also authorised by the Polish Government to carry out yachts' inspections and issue Safety Certificates.

The Yacht Safety Certificate is an obligatory requirement for:

- sea-going commercial yachts (irrespective of their size);
- sea-going recreational yachts of more than 15 m in length.

For sea-going recreational yachts of up to 15 m in length the Yacht Safety Certificate is recommended but not obligatory.

The Yacht Safety Certificate also specifies minimum safe manning by listing the minimum number of crew and certificates of competency required.

Class Certificate or document issued after technical survey

The Class Certificate is a document certifying seaworthiness of a sea-going yacht in technical terms. The yacht's devices and equipment are subject to technical supervision of compliance with requirements regarding construction, reconstruction, equipment, repairs and technical inspections.

Based on the authorisation of the Polish Government, the Class Certificate of a sea-going yacht may be issued by the Polish Register of Shipping (PRS). In case of yachts of up to 15 m in length, also Polish Yachting Association (PYA) may issue a technical document (Seaworthiness Certificate).

For more information please visit:

REJA24.gov.pl

<https://portal.reja24.gov.pl/web/guest/requirements-and-documents>
