



Guidance notes for Small Ships Register

What is a Small Ships Register?

The Small Ships Register (SSR) provides a cheap and simple alternative to full registration under the Merchant Shipping Act. The certificate of registry provided will give evidence of the British nationality of the ship when taken abroad.

A Small Ships Registration Certificate does not enable ownership of a ship to be established nor can marine mortgages be recorded.

What is a small ship?

A small ship is one which is less than 24 meters (78.7 feet) in overall length:

The following ships cannot be registered on the SSR:

- those owned by companies or organizations such as clubs and associations
- those over 24 meters in length
- fishing or rigid inflatable boats
- commercially used vessels

Who may register a small ship?

A small ship may be registered if it is owned by one or more persons (not exceeding five) who are:

- qualified persons within the meaning of sub-regulation (4) of the regulations;
- at least 18 years of age;
- ordinarily residents in Gibraltar

What does 'ordinarily resident' mean?

For the purposes of registering a ship, it means living and sleeping in Gibraltar for a significant part of the year. A person may be considered to be ordinarily resident if they live for a period of, or periods which amount to 185 days or more in a twelve month period.

Can a ship be registered on Part 1 (Full registration – Blue Book) and the SSR?

Ships cannot be on more than one register at any one time. If you already have full British Registration it is to your advantage to keep your ship registered on that Part rather than registering it on the SSR. If, however, you wish to transfer from one Part of the Register to another, it will be necessary to close the ship's current registration before a new registration application can be submitted.

How long does SSR registration last?

First registration is granted for a period of one calendar year from the date of issue of the Certificate of Registry and can be renewed during the last three months prior to the date of expiry, provided no changes have occurred in the details recorded on the Certificate of Registry.

Registration can be renewed for any number of years not exceeding five years at any one time. A separate form for renewing the registration of a ship is available from the Small Ships Register office.

Ship Names

Names will not be registered if they are:

- already registered to another ship
- similar to one already registered to another ship
- undesirable or offensive

Measuring the Ship

In most cases the owners may measure the overall length of the ship themselves (see application form SSR-01 section 1) 'Overall length' is the distance between the foreside of the foremost fixed permanent structure and the aftside of the aftermost fixed permanent structure of the ship. On multi-hulled crafts, the longest hull should be measured. In the event of a query or for further advice on measuring craft of a novel design, please contact the Registrar.

Ship description definitions

Motor Sailer	-	boat propelled by engine or sail with a keel and cabin
Motor Cruiser	-	large boat largely propelled with an engine, including cabin cruisers
Sailing Cruiser	-	boat primarily propelled by sail (larger than a dinghy) with fixed keel or cabin
Motor Dinghy	-	all types of dinghy propelled by internal combustion engine
Sailing Dinghy	-	all types of dinghy propelled by sail without a fixed keel or cabin
Power Boat	-	including speedboats, powerboats and high speed launches
Jet Ski	-	including jet skis, wet bikes etc.
Other	-	any other vessel type which does not easily fit into any of the above types

Offences and Obligations

Any person who makes an application containing a statement, which they know to be false or reckless, or any person who with intent to deceive, uses or lends to, or allows to be used by another a terminated certificate of registration, or any person who fails to ensure that the requirement of ship's making is met, or any person who fails to surrender a certificate of registration when required by the Regulations shall be guilty of an offence. In addition, where it appears that there is any doubt as to the right of any ship registered or seeking registration to be registered, the owner may be required to give additional evidence.

Fees

Application for Registration	£100
Registration Renewal	£25 (per calendar year)
Issue of a duplicate certificate	£25
Change of registered particulars	£25
Transcript of Register	£25
Deletion Certificate	£25

Payment methods

- Cash (over the counter)
- Local or UK Cheques payable to 'Government General Account'
- Card payment

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