



**IMMARBE**

International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize

**IMMARBE'S CODES OF STANDARDS FOR YACHTS  
IN COMMERCIAL OR PRIVATE USE**

TO ALL SHIPOWNERS AND OPERATORS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, GSI INSPECTORS AND SHIPPING AGENTS

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**1. PURPOSE**

1.1. This Notice addresses the introduction of the Codes of Standards for Yachts in Commercial or Private use produced by IMMARBE. These prescribe the regulatory regime for all yachts registered at IMMARBE.

**2. YACHT CODES**

2.1. IMMARBE has developed the following Codes:

- 2.1.1. The Code of Standards for Yachts of 24 m or above and 500 GT or more but less than 5000GT – The Super Yacht Code
- 2.1.2. The Code of Standards for Yachts of 24 m or above and less than 500 GT – The Large Yacht Code
- 2.1.3. The Code of Standards for Yachts of less than 24 m but not less than 10 m – The Small Yacht Code

We attach some material by way of introduction to these Codes.

- 2.2 The actual texts of the abovementioned Codes together with relevant information may be viewed on [www.immarbe.com/yachts.html](http://www.immarbe.com/yachts.html)
- 2.3 These Codes are mandatory for all new registrations of yachts in commercial use and are strongly recommended for those in private use. Existing commercial yachts may remain under the current arrangements for a period up to 24 months from the date of entry into force of these Codes.

### 3 ENTRY INTO FORCE

3.1 These Codes come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008.



Angelo Mouzouropoulos FICS, FCI Arb.  
Director General



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## INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT MARINE REGISTRY OF BELIZE "IMMARBE"

A WORD FROM THE HELM

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Dear Yacht Owner,

Belize is often referred to as "mother nature's best kept secret" and a "jewel" of the Caribbean. It has the second largest barrier reef in the world, its waters are pristine and its wildlife and marine resources are abundant and well preserved. As the result, its tourism industry is growing rapidly. At the same time, Belize's ship registry, IMMARBEE, "the friendly flag of quality", has distinguished itself as being one of only 13 Flag States in the world to hold the prestigious U.S. Coast Guard "Qualship 21" designation. Consequently, it is entirely appropriate that we should seek to specialize in the registration of yachts, a popular and growing sector in our area, the Caribbean.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to announce the introduction of our three separate Codes of enhanced Standards which define yachts by use, size and operational range. I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those in the industry who contributed to the development of our Codes and whose names appear in the relevant Annex to each Code. As someone who has recently celebrated his 40th year in the shipping industry and as an owner of a small sportfisher/cruiser, I highly commend these Codes to you. Compliance with their requirements will go a long way in ensuring the safety of your family, friends and other passengers onboard as well as to their enjoyment of yacht-based leisure and sporting activities. At the same time, these Codes will enhance the chartering prospects of your yacht, its market value and operating life.

In my view, hoisting the Belize flag on the stern of your yacht is the best seal of approval you can obtain for your prized possession.

Bon voyage!

Angelo Mouzouropoulos FICS, FCI Arb.  
Director General

**IMMARBE's  
Codes of Enhanced  
Standards  
for Yachts**



*Hoist this US Coast Guard 'Qualship 21' designated  
'friendly flag of quality'  
on your stern*

*Simply the best seal of approval for your prized possession!*

**Belize**

## IMMARBE's Codes of Standards for Yachts in commercial and private use

The International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize (IMMARBE) has produced these Codes in order to address perceived gaps in the international regulatory regime which prescribes safety standards for yachts.

IMMARBE therefore decided to enhance other similar Codes and the various categories distinguishing yachts by use, size and operational range as well as to encompass other areas identified as being of growing importance e.g. submersibles. Consequently, with the assistance of contributors from this industry, we have developed the following Codes:

The Code of Standards for Yachts of 24 metres or above and 500GT or more - [The Super Yacht Code](#).

The Code of Standards for Yachts of 24 metres or above and less than 500 GT - [The Large Yacht Code](#).

The Code of Standards for Yachts of less than 24 metres - [The Small Yacht Code](#).

**In the interests of safety and the practical application of the standards, these Codes offer many advantages by providing:**

- A clear distinction between the requirements for yachts in commercial and those in private use as well as between those in unrestricted operation worldwide and several other categories of restriction.
- Enhanced standards for the construction and operation of new yachts whilst at the same time making realistic provisions for existing yachts.
- Details of recognized standards for equipment or equivalents thereof.
- Lists showing the Recognized Organizations / Classification Societies which are authorized by our Administration for each category of Commercial or Private Yacht as well as the individual Authorized Surveyors who may conduct surveys on our behalf.
- Details of the Survey, Certification, Inspection, Maintenance and Personnel requirements for each category according to size, use and operational range.

- Standards for helicopter landing areas onboard as well as helicopter operating standards.
- Standards for operating submersibles from a yacht, including the facilities onboard.
- Details of ISM and ISPS Certification requirements for Super yachts in commercial use. For yachts where these are not mandatory, the Codes provide Guidelines for the development and implementation of an effective safety management system as well as for a Ship Security Plan.
- Criteria for the application of Equivalent Standards and Exemptions approved by IMMARBE.
- Guidelines on Safe Working Practices onboard as well as for the conduct of yacht-based Sporting and Leisure activities e.g. sportfishing, scuba diving etc.

**Apart from the considerable safety related advantages listed above, in our view, compliance with the Codes will enhance the chartering prospects of a yacht and will assist in the preservation of its market value.**

**Furthermore, adherence to these standards for construction, materials/equipment, maintenance and other operational requirements will assist in obviating rapidly escalating repair and maintenance costs over time and will extend a yacht's operating life. Owners of yachts registered at IMMARBE also enjoy the following benefits:**

- A large network of deputy registrars in major maritime centres.
- Attractive taxes, fees and incentives.
- Fast, reliable ISO 9001-2000 accredited services offered by a U.S. Coast Guard 'Qualship 21' Registry.
- Political stability, a well established legal system and mortgage recording service.
- Competent technical staff & a worldwide network of General Safety Inspectors.
- International Business Corporations.