



Regulations governing Swiss seagoing yachts

(Basis: Ordinance of 15 March 1971 governing Swiss seagoing yachts)

1. Documents to be carried on board (Ordinance, Article 20, paragraph 2)

- The Swiss flag certificate and these regulations (during periods when the vessel is not in use, the flag certificate should be kept in a safe place – charges apply for the issuance of a duplicate certificate)
- The skipper's licence (in accordance with Article 19 of the Ordinance, the skipper of a Swiss yacht is required to hold a licence or an equivalent certificate issued by a foreign authority and recognised by the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office)
- Certificate of liability insurance cover
- Log book that must be updated daily by the skipper when the vessel is at sea, and must contain the following information:
 - Name, number of Swiss flag certificate, port of registry, other data relating to the vessel
 - Name, address and nationality of the skipper
 - Type, number, date of issue of skipper's licence, plus place of issue and issuing authority
 - Personal details (including nationality) of other persons on board the vessel, the functions they perform (where applicable), and indication of their port(s) of embarkation and disembarkation (in each case, place and date)
 - Entry into and departure from ports (in each case, place and date)
 - Allocation of watch duty
 - Voyage report (wind and weather conditions, course and adjustments, log status, sail deployment, use of motor, constantly identified location)
 - Important occurrences and/or observations, including accidents, damage, etc.

The log book must be signed by the skipper.

2. Swiss flag, port of registry, name of vessel (Ordinance, Article 1, paragraph 3)

The Swiss flag carried on board is rectangular: length = 1.5 times the width (in accordance with Article 3 of the Federal Maritime Navigation Act of 23 September 1953 [SR 747.30] – cf. illustration in the appendix). The name of the port of registry (BASEL) must be displayed on the vessel in one of Switzerland's three official languages, and the name of the yacht must be displayed in the usual form (Ordinance, Article 9).

3. Amendment of details in the Swiss flag certificate (Ordinance, Article 3, paragraph 3)

Any amendments that have to be made to the details entered in the Swiss flag certificate must be reported immediately to the issuing authority, and the certificate must be enclosed with the notification. **Changes may not be made by the holder of the certificate.**

4. Extension of validity of the Swiss flag certificate (Ordinance, Article 12)

A Swiss flag certificate is valid for three years. Applications for an extension by one, two or (maximum) three years must be submitted to the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office, together with the original certificate, prior to the date of expiry.

At the same time, copies of relevant invoices or an expert report must be enclosed as proof that the vessel is still seaworthy, the life-saving equipment has undergone a periodical inspection within the past 15 months or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (copy of maintenance certificate) and the liability insurance cover for zone B or C is still valid. After a Swiss flag certificate has expired, the vessel is no longer authorised to fly the Swiss flag. The validity of a Swiss flag certificate may not be interrupted as long as the vessel is registered with the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office.

5. Deletion from register (Ordinance, Article 13)

If a registered vessel is sold, whether to a Swiss citizen or a citizen of another country, the seller must immediately apply for the vessel concerned to be deleted from the register, stating the precise date of sale. At the same time, the original Swiss flag certificate must be returned to the issuing authority.

If a vessel is registered abroad at a later date, an official confirmation of deletion from the register is normally required. The necessary confirmation will be issued by the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office upon request of the seller and at the latter's own cost.

If the requirements for registration are no longer met, the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office will automatically delete the vessel from the register. This applies, for example, if the vessel is no longer seaworthy, the owner no longer has the right of disposal or the flag certificate has expired. Similarly, a vessel may be deleted from the register – subject to any consequences that may arise from prosecution – in the event of severe or repeated violations of the official regulations (transport in return for payment or on a charter basis, no liability insurance or inadequate or unrecognised cover, skippering a vessel without the necessary licence, etc.), or violations of provisions of the relevant legislation (Act and Ordinance).