

SHIP REGISTRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

The Republic of Panama is the country with the largest Merchant fleet in the World. This is due to:

- 1 An open system ship registration;
- 2 A favorable legislation;
- 3 An efficient legal system;
- 4 The existence of the Panama Canal, with its multiple advantages.

An important aspect in the professional practice of *Infante & Pérez Almillano* is its experience in maritime law.

Our Law Firm is able to offer multiple legal services, such as: ship registration, navigation licences, maritime law, ship mortgages, chartering contracts, loading and transportation of goods, among others.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO APPLY AND CARRY OUT SHIP REGISTRATION

Any person who wishes to register a ship under Panamanian flag, must gather the following documentation:

1. Sales Contract and sales acceptance on behalf of the buyer, or;
2. Builder's Certificate and delivery acceptance on behalf of the owner. (This applies to new ships).
3. Discharge Certificate of the previous registration, which is issued by the proper authorities from the Merchant Navy of the country where the ship cancels its registration (it's not required if the ship is new).
4. Power of Attorney on behalf of the owner, granting the ship's representation upon the authorities of the Republic of Panama.
5. Tonnage Certificate issued by the Classification Society of the ship, under the name of the Republic of Panama, according to the resolutions of the International Agreement on Ship Tonnage from 1969.
6. Photocopy of the service contract, signed by the company that will handle the radio bills.
7. Radio application, properly filled in.

The documents indicated in numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 must be properly notarized and the Notary's signature must be properly legalized by the Panamanian Consul where they were issued or apostilled in accordance to the Hague Convention from 1961.

The procedure for ship registration under the flag of Panama takes one day to be properly completed.

Likewise, we require the following information be provided to us to fill in the respective applications:

1. Name the ship will hold in the Panamanian Registry.
2. Current name of the ship.
3. Country to which nationality is being renounced.
4. Name and address of the owner.

5. Name of the authority in charge of the radio bills.
6. Place of construction.
7. Year of construction.
8. Builder's name.
9. Number of decks, masts and funnels.
10. Material of the hull.
11. Dimensions: length, beam, depth.
12. Tonnage.
13. Ship service.
14. Number of machines or engines.
15. Trademark or name of the manufacturers.
16. Speed of the ship.
17. Horse-power and number of cylinders of each engine.
18. Name of the Classification Society.
19. Type of call letters (radio-telegraph, radio-telephone or both).

Once the documentation and the requested information are received, we proceed to present the application to the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine (DGMM) and to make the payments of the government fees. The General Directorate of the Merchant Marine will proceed to issue the Provisional Patent, valid for six (6) months and the Radio Permit, valid for three (3) months. During this period, original documents must be presented to our offices that we already mentioned so that the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine proceed to issue the Final Patent.



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