

## 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.