

Isle of Man Ship Registry Registry Advice Notice



Tonnage and Measurement of Ships under 24m Overall Length

Ref. RAN 03 (Rev.5)
Issued 17/09/2025

1. Introduction

Prior to registry, all ships under 24m overall length (excluding ships to be registered on the small ships register and fishing vessels) must be surveyed and issued with a 'Certificate of Survey (Tonnage Measurement)' specifying vessel tonnage in accordance with Part III of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations 1998.

Please note that tonnage and measurement for Manx ships 24 metres or over other than fishing vessels is covered in [RAN 04](#).

Tonnage and measurement for fishing vessels is covered in [RAN 10](#).

2. Survey/Certification

Survey and Certification must be completed by a Certifying Authority given in section 3.

Following initial survey and issuance of the certificate of survey there are no requirements for on-going survey in relation to tonnage.

If any changes are made in the arrangement, construction, capacity, use of spaces, total number of passengers the ship is permitted to carry under the terms of the passenger certificate, assigned load line or permitted draught of the ship that cause a change in tonnage, the existing measurement will cease to be valid. The certificate of survey should be returned to the issuing authority for cancellation and arrangements made for re-measurement of the vessel.

Changes to a vessels name or port of registry, whilst having no effect on tonnage, will require the existing certificate of survey to be amended or re-issued denoting the changes by a certifying authority. The Ship Registry should be contacted prior to proceeding with any changes to a vessels name or port of registry.

3. Certifying Authorities

Certifying authorities authorised to undertake tonnage measurement for all ships are given in [MSN 020](#).

The Ship Registry will also accept tonnage measurements undertaken by the following listed authorities for vessels under 24m in length overall:



International Institute of Marine Surveying
Murrills House
48 East Street
Portchester
PO16 9XS
Tel: +44 (0) 23 9238 5223
ca@iims.org.uk

MECAL Ltd
Office Suite 4, Endeavour House
Oceansgate
Devonport
Plymouth
PL1 4RW
admin@mecal.co.uk

Royal Yachting Association
RYA House
Ensign Way
Hamble
Southampton
SO31 4YA
Tel: +44 (0) 23 8060 4100
scvcert@rya.org.uk

SCMS
Ground Floor
Unit 5, Prospect House
7 Ocean Way
Southampton
SO14 3TJ
Tel: +44 (0) 23 8001 6494
sec@scmshq.org

Yacht Designers & Surveyors Association
1A Holders Barn
Clarendon Close
Station Road
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU32 3FR
Tel: +44 (0) 17 3071 0425
Tonnage@ybdsa.co.uk

Please note - The Isle of Man Ship Registry cannot give legal advice. Where this document provides guidance on the law it should not be regarded as definitive. The way the law applies to any particular case can vary according to circumstances - for example, from vessel to vessel. You should consider seeking independent legal advice if you are unsure of your own legal position.

