

Input to Frequently Asked Questions Discussion

Key Documents

Royal Decree 875/2014, of October 10, 2014, which regulates nautical qualifications for the governance of recreational boats.

Royal Decree 238/2019, of April 5, 2019, which establishes authorizations attached to nautical qualifications for the governance of recreational boats and updates the safety measures in the use of jet skis.

Royal Decree 339/2021, of May 18, 2021, regulating the safety and pollution prevention equipment of recreational boats.

Royal Decree 1435/2010, of November 5, 2010, which regulates the flagging and registration of recreational vessels in the sixth and seventh lists of the ship registration register.

Useful Websites

www.transportes.gob.es/marina-mercante/nautica-de-recreo

www.dgt.es/muevete-con-seguridad/viaja-seguro/en-autocaravana

www.rya.org.uk/knowledge/abroad/country-specific-advice/spain

License Requirements to Operate Recreational Boats	
	Recreational craft are considered to be those of all types, regardless of their means of propulsion, which are between 2.5 and 24 metres in length, designed and intended for recreational and sporting purposes, and which do not carry more than 12 passengers.
	Spanish Citizens and residents may find that a UK certificate issued by the RYA isn't sufficient, irrespective of where the boat is flagged.
	Recreational nautical qualifications are not of a professional nature and entitle exclusively to the steering of recreational boats and jet skis flagged or registered and registered in Spain, which are used exclusively for recreational activities or, where appropriate, those permitted by the attached qualifications. Cargo or passenger transport activities of a commercial nature, or non-sport fishing, may not be carried out.
	The sailing and motor boating federations and the recreational nautical schools are able to issue navigation licenses that qualify for the government of motorcycles nautical and recreational boats up to 6 meters in length and a power of engine suitable for them according to their manufacturer, which will enable them to carry out of daytime navigations as long as they do not move more than 2 nautical miles in any address of a port, marina or place of shelter. [Place of shelter: A place where a vessel can easily take refuge and allow its occupants to reach land]
	For helming of motor boats with a maximum power of 11.26 kilowatts (approx 14.5 HP) and up to 5 metres in length, sailing boats up to 6 metres in length and floating or beach devices, with the exception of jet skis, it will not be necessary to be in possession of the qualifications regulated in Royal Decree 875/2014, provided that they are not more than 2 nautical miles away from a port, marina or place of refuge and the activity is carried out under a daytime navigation regime.

	There are six main licence standards for recreational boats: Yacht Captain (Capitán de yate), Yacht skipper (Patrón de yate), Skipper of recreational boat (Patrón de embarcación de recreo), Skipper for basic navigation (Patrón para la navegación básica), Navigation license (Licencia de navegación). The navigation license and skipper titles for basic navigation and skipper of recreational boats can be obtained directly. However to obtain the titles of yacht skipper and yacht captain it will be necessary to be in possession of the title immediately below.
	The qualifications do not expire, however, the cards issued will be valid for 10 years after which its renewal must be requested. When the applicants have reached the age of 70, the renewal of the card must be requested every 5 years.
	All applications, both initial and renewal, must be supported by a medical certificate carried out by the Driver Recognition Centres. These are the same centres that carry out the test for vehicle licences.
	Yacht Captain (Capitán de yate): motor pleasure boats of up to 24 metres in length, navigation without geographical limits. Steering of jet skis, within the specific navigation limits applicable to them, in accordance with their technical characteristics.
	Yacht Skipper (Patrón de yate): motor pleasure boats or recreational sailing boats of up to 24 metres in length, navigation in the area between the coast and a line parallel to the same drawn at a distance of 150 nautical miles. Steering of jet skis, within the specific navigation limits applicable to them, in accordance with their technical characteristics.
	Skipper of Recreational Boat (Patrón de embarcación de recreo (PER)): motor pleasure boats or recreational sailing boats of up to 15 metres in length, navigation in the area between the coast and a line parallel to it, drawn 12 miles from it. Also navigation between islands within the Balearic and Canary Islands. Steering of jet skis, within the specific navigation limits applicable to them, in accordance with their technical characteristics.
	Skipper for Basic Navigation (Patrón para la navegación básica (PNB)): motor pleasure boats or recreational sailing boats up to 8 metres in length, provided that the boat does not go more than 5 miles in any direction from a port, marina or shelter. Steering of jet skis, within the specific navigation limits applicable to them, in accordance with their technical characteristics.
	Jet Ski Skipper (Patrón de Moto Náutica): Steering of jet skis with a power equal to or greater than 110 hp (Jet ski skipper "A"). Steering of jet skis with power greater than 55 hp and less than 110 hp (Jet ski skipper "B").
	Navigation license (Licencia de navegación) Sailing and motorboat federations and recreational nautical schools may issue navigation licences authorising the steering of jet skis and pleasure craft of up to 6 metres in length and an engine power appropriate to them according to their manufacturer, which shall enable them to carry out daytime navigation provided that they do not go more than 2 nautical miles in any direction from a port, marina or shelter place.
	RYA Advice: Spanish Citizens and residents may find that a UK certificate issued by the RYA isn't sufficient, irrespective of where the boat is flagged.
Boat Registration	
	In order to be covered by Spanish legislation, under the rights granted therein and to fly the Spanish flag, vessels must be registered in one of the Ship Registration Registers of the Maritime Districts under the General Directorate of the Merchant Navy. Lists are the organizational system by which ships, boats, platforms or floating devices are assigned to the tonnage or activity they carry out. List 7 shall include vessels and vessels whose exclusive use is for the practice of sport or recreation, for non-profit purposes or for non-professional fishing.
	These Registers are public and administrative in nature. Each Maritime District will have its own Registration Register. That of the Harbour Master's District will be in charge of the

	Maritime Captain and those of the other Districts of the same will depend on the corresponding local Maritime Authority.
	<p>Article 8. Special regime for CE-marked recreational boats of a length equal to or less than 12 metres.</p> <p>All recreational boats of 12 metres in length or less are exempt from the obligation to flag and register, as well as to dispatch, provided that the boat itself and its propulsion equipment bear the CE marking. However, they may be flagged and registered at the express request of the holder, in which case the general regime established in Article 9 of Royal Decree 1435/2010 will apply.</p> <p>In any case, they must obtain a certificate of registration before entering into service, in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 6 of this Article and comply with the provisions of Paragraph 4.</p> <p>Paragraph 4. these vessels must have the inscription sign painted or permanently fixed on both bulwarks, which must be placed at the maximum possible height from the waterline. Its size will be sufficient in relation to the dimensions of the vessel so that it can be easily identified at sea and its colour will be white on dark hulls and black on light hulls.</p> <p>Paragraph 6. The Maritime District shall at the request of the purchaser of the vessel, issue to these vessels a certificate of registration with an annualized sequential number, taking into account their length, and in accordance with the following:</p> <p>6a. The owners of these vessels shall apply for registration on the corresponding list of the district of their choice by means of a standardised application available in any maritime district and at the address of the electronic register of the Ministry of Public Works (https://sede.fomento.gob.es).</p> <p>6b. The maritime district shall issue to these vessels a certificate of registration with an annualized sequential number. Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the purchase invoice or the payment of the Transfer Tax and Stamp Duty, in cases of change of ownership by means of a purchase contract, or the title that proves the right to enjoy the boat, as well as the documentation accrediting the payment or, where appropriate, non-taxation or exemption from excise duty on certain modes of transport.</p>
Insurance	
	All owners of recreational boats must have insurance that covers civil liability arising from the navigation of their boats or while they are docked, etc.
	Insurance should cover the following risks: death or bodily injury of others, material damage to third parties, economic losses that are a direct consequence of the previous damages, damage to ships by collision or non-contact. In addition, unless otherwise agreed, the insurer will be responsible for the payment of the legal and extrajudicial costs inherent to the insured's defence.
	Boats participating in regattas, tests, competitions of all kinds and their training, including bets and challenges, must take out a special insurance aimed at covering the civil liability of the participants (Art. 3.2. Royal Decree 607/1999 of 16 April)
	Boats permanently based in Spain (or other EU countries) cannot be covered by insurance providers from outside the EU. This means UK based agents can no longer provide cover for such boats.
	Regional Federations issue annual licences to individuals that covers registration and personal insurance for the specified activity. It is possible to apply to the Sailing Association of Murcia (FVRM) for an annual sailing licence as an independent sailor. Licence is a misleading term as it confers no qualification, only registration and insurance.
Taxation	
	The acquisition of a recreational boat (new, second-hand, by inheritance, donation, etc.) gives rise to a series of tax obligations. These may include: VAT, IGIC, IPSI, ITP, "Registration Tax" (IEDMT), Inheritance and gift tax. There are other charges that may apply including: fee for

	sports and recreational boats (T-5), Aids to navigation fee (T-0), fees for actions of the Registries of Ships and Shipping Companies and fee for the provision of Inspection and Control Services by the Directorate General of the Merchant Navy.
	The sale and purchase of second-hand vessels and boats between individuals will most likely be subject to Transfer Tax, however, VAT, IGIC or IPSI will normally not apply as they are paid on first purchase. It is a state tax, therefore depending on the Autonomous Community the applicable rate varies.
	Registration Tax (IEMDT) on first purchase is not applicable to vessels of length less than 8m although a declaration must be filed.
National Authority	
	The general organisation of maritime navigation and the Spanish civil fleet is a responsibility of the Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility (Ministerio de Transportes y Movilidad Sostenible). The General Directorate of the Merchant Navy (Dirección General de la Marina Mercante) oversees the organisation and control of maritime traffic; the clearance, registration and flagging of civilian vessels, as well as the organisation and execution of technical, structural and equipment inspections and controls of civil vessels.
	The Maritime Rescue and Safety Society (SASEMAR - La Sociedad de Salvamento y Seguridad Marítima) provides public services for the rescue of human life at sea, and for the prevention and control of pollution of the marine environment, as well as services for monitoring and assisting maritime traffic, maritime safety and navigation, towing and assistance to ships. and those complementary to the above.
Local Authority	
	The maritime province of Cartagena is one of the thirty maritime provinces into which the coastline of Spain is divided. It is bordered to the north by the maritime province of Alicante and to the south by the maritime province of Almeria. The captaincy of this maritime province is located in Cartagena.
	Maritime District - Departamento Marítimo de Cartagena. Dirección: Pez Espada 1, Código postal 30201, Cartagena Teléfono (968) 52 19 16Fax(968) 50 03 79
Life Saving Services	
	A person who sees a boat from land or people with clear signs of being in difficulty (waving their arms, flares, smoke or fire, etc.): In this case, you must notify the Centres through the free emergency telephone number 900 202 202. Likewise, the Centres can be notified through the Civil Guard, Local Police or Civil Protection, through the emergency telephone number 112.
	Cartagena Rescue Coordination Centre. Tel.: 968 505 366 / 968 529 594 /968 529 817
Public Ramps	
	There are two public access ramps on the Mar Menor: San Javier and Los Urrutias. The Council of Murcia have plans for three further ramps: San Javier El Atalayon, Islas Menores and Playa Honda.
Marinas	
	The Region of Murcia has 274 km of coastline with 20 marinas, 18 of which are under the responsibility of the regional government. The study titled "Open Marinas Strategic Framework Region of Murcia" dated June 2022, states that there is a shortage of 5,923 mooring places in the port infrastructures of the Region of Murcia. The only marina in the La Manga and Mar Menor sector listed in the study as offering dry marina spaces is Mar De Cristal.
	There are 13 marinas in the La Manga and Mar Menor Sector.
	Marinas will require the following minimum documentation for your boat: certificado de navegabilidad, seguro obligatorio de la embarcación and hoja de registro marítimo.

	<p>Marinas work on a Calendar year basis for commercial contracts. This means that they have little interest in discussion regarding berths for the following year until September/October. There also tend towards stasis between November and February inclusive. Prices are based upon a regulated formula that sets a minimum (but never achieved) threshold.</p>
<p>Boat Trailers (Remolque)</p>	
	<p>Maximum Authorized Mass less than or equal to 750 kilos (remolque ligeros): No additional driving licence above B permit as long as car and trailer does not exceed 3,500kg; trailer does not require to be registered; no separate insurance required for trailer but car insurance must cover towing.</p>
	<p>Maximum Authorized Mass greater than 750 kilos (remolque no ligeros): necessary to have the B96 authorization on licence, which will allow you to transport trailers of more than 750 kg GVW as long as the set does not exceed 4,250 kg. From this limit, it will be necessary to have the B+E permit; the trailer must be registered and have the trailer's own license plate (red) and that of the vehicle transporting it on the back; to drive with the trailer you will have to take out extra insurance.</p>
	<p>Speed Limits: 90 km/h on motorways and dual carriageways and 80 km/h on conventional motorways.</p>
	<p>It is mandatory to have a fire extinguisher when towing a trailer.</p>
	<p>Tow hitch – in addition to the installation in a workshop – must be legalised (within 15 days of fitting) by going through the Technical Inspection of Vehicles (ITV) which, in case of passing the inspection, will note the modification on the vehicle's ITV card.</p>
	<p>It is mandatory to register any trailer approved at more than 750Kg, (red license plate) which implies passing the ITV (the first time 2 years after purchase and then every year, like any vehicle) and own insurance (trailers of 750Kg are covered by the insurance of the same towing vehicle)</p>
	<p>When buying a trailer, make sure that it is approved and that the ITV card of the trailer is provided. All trailers have an ITV that must be carried when in use. Light trailers (<750 kilos) do not need regular ITV testing.</p>
	<p>On the internet you can find cheap trailers but most of them are offered with no ITV Card. This means that they cannot be used on public roads. The lack of a card could be because it is a handmade trailer or the card has been lost and the manufacturer has closed so that a new card cannot be obtained.</p>