

Honduras

Honduras is a relatively small country with only 112,000 square kilometres, which has an abundant nature, a rich cultural heritage and archaeological diversity.

It is situated in Central America along with Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and the Republic of Panama.

Honduras has about six million inhabitants of whom the majority is mestizos (a mixture between Europeans and indigenous people). Some of the indigenous groups have kept their traditional customs and language. Spanish is the official language except on the Bay Islands where English is considered a second language particularly in the larger towns.

Honduras is considered one of the most liberal open Ship Registries in the world.

Incentives

- A vessel may be registered under the Honduras flag within maximum 24 hours after submitting relevant Application and supporting documentation;
- No restrictions as to who can apply for registration;
- Recognition of the Competence Certificate issued by Honduras;
- A quick and easy way of obtaining certificates for the ship;
- International recognised expertise;
- The Flag is one of responsibility not convenience.

Eligibility for Registration

There are no requirements concerning local ownership or participation in ownership. Vessels over 20 years of age will not be accepted. The registry is open to vessels over 500 GRT used for navigation that are engaged in any lawful trade, service or international maritime activity.

Provisional Registration

Following documents must be submitted:

- Application for Registration (Copy);
- Application for Radio License (Copy);
- Application for Minimum Safe Manning (Copy);
- Builder's certificate or Bill of Sale (Copy);
- Power of Attorney (Duly Legalized Copy);
- International Tonnage Certificate (1969) (Duly Legalized Copy);
- If Vessel over 15 years, valid Class/Safety;
- Construction/Seaworthiness Certificate (Copy);
- Radio accounting authority contract (from an authorized Radio Accounting Authority) (Copy).

Permanent Registration

Following documents must be submitted:

- Application for Registration (Original);
- Application for Radio License (Original);
- Application for Minimum Safe Manning (Original);
- Builder's certificate or Bill of Sale (Duly Legalized Copy);
- Power of Attorney (Duly Legalized Copy);
- Deletion Certificate from previous registry;
- International Tonnage Certificate (1969) (issued on behalf of Honduras) (Duly approved by Merchant Marine);
- If Vessel over 15 years, valid Class/Safety;
- Construction/Seaworthiness Certificate (Duly approved by Merchant Marine).

Mortgage Registration

Following documents must be submitted:

- Deed of Ownership;
- Power of Attorney (Must be legalised by Honduran Embassy);
- Standard form of Mortgage to ensure Principal Sum and Interest containing terms and conditions signed by Mortgagor and Mortgagee.- Such document to include certain clauses to conform with Honduran Legislation.- The Mortgage Deed has to be notarized and then legalized by a Honduran Consulate. Before proceeding to register the mortgage a draft should be sent to our Lawyers in Honduras for approval;
- The following are the suggested clauses to be included in Mortgage Deed:
 - Owners will keep the ship registered as Hondurian ship at a port in the Republic of Honduras and not do or suffer to be done anything whereby such registration may be forfeited or imperiled.
 - Owners will not sell, transfer, mortgage, charge, hypothecate or abandon the ship without the prior written consent of Mortgagee.
 - This Mortgage shall, so far as regards the question of its due registration and rights of property in and over the ship, be governed and construed according to the laws of the Republic of Honduras but in all other respects and so far as is consistent with the foregoing it shall be governed and construed according to the laws of Cyprus.
 - The Mortgagee shall have the right and power to take all actions and to execute and record with the appropriate Mercantile Registry of the Republic of Honduras all such documents as may be required to register this Mortgage and maintain its registration as a valid (e.g. First Preferred Mortgage) under the laws of the Republic of Honduras
 - The Mortgagor and the Mortgagee each confer a Special Power of Attorney, with right to substitution upon our Lawyers in Honduras to take all necessary actions to record this mortgage in the appropriate Mercantile Registry of the Republic of Honduras including the power to execute supplementary documents if this is necessary to complete such registration.
 - Secured Amount - The Total amount secured hereunder is the Principal Amount of US\$ equivalent to US\$ (amount of mortgage) and interest and all other amounts

including costs secured hereunder. The maturity date of this Mortgage is conditioned to other terms and obligations hereunder stipulated.

Bareboat Registration

Following documents must be submitted:

- Power of Attorney (Must be legalised by Honduran Embassy);
- Charter Party which shows that vessel has been chartered to a firm/charterer in the country of new registration.

Seafarer Documents - Endorsements

Under the SCTW 95, countries are required to comply with this Convention at the national level, and this evaluated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), whilst at the individual seafarer level it requires the seafarer to hold an STCW 95 certified qualification. Both are not negotiable. States who do not meet the new standards and requirements will not be able to sail their vessels in international waters, nor will their nationals be able to work on any foreign-flag ships.

Company Formation

To form a corporation in Honduras, an owner must nominate a law firm in Honduras and grant full Power of Attorney to a Honduran lawyer. The firm can assist in processing standard paperwork. Owners may provide identification of shareholders and the name of three directors required, although shareholders can also be directors. Shareholders will not be disclosed. Nominee directors can be used.

Authorised Classification Societies

- Compania Nacional de Registro E Inspeccion De Naves, S. De R.L. (CONARINA)
- C.T.M Inspection and Classification Company S. De R.L
- Cyprus Bureau of Shipping (CBS)
- Honduras Bureau of Shipping (H.B.S.)
- Honduras International of Naval Surveying and Inspection Bureau (HINSIB)
- Hellenic Register of Shipping (H.R.S.)
- Honduras Maritime Inspection (H.M.I)
- Inspection Y Classification Maritima S. De R.L. (INCLAMAR)
- International Register of shipping (I.R.O.S.)
- ISTHMUS Bureau of Shipping (ISBS)
- R.J Del Pan (Japan) K.K.