

## INFORMATION FOR SAILORS

### 1. ARRIVAL AND STAY OF FOREIGN BOATS AND YACHTS INTENDED FOR SPORT AND RECREATION PURPOSES IN CROATIA

#### 1.1. ARRIVAL FROM THE SEA

Master of a vessel entering Croatia by sea shall use the shortest route to call at the nearest port open to international traffic in order to undergo border control and carry out the following:

1. Endorse the crew and passenger list or the list of persons on the vessel
2. Pay the stipulated fees
3. Pay the sojourn tax for vessels higher than 5m with a bed
4. Report stay on the vessel

Master of a vessel transported into Croatia by land or tended to in the port or at some other place in Croatia shall prior to commencing the journey undertake the following in the harbourmaster's office:

1. Pay the stipulated fees
2. Pay the sojourn tax
3. Report stay on the vessel

Vignettes that were used as proof of payment of all fees are no longer issued.

#### 1.2. NAVIGATION SAFETY FEE

The owner or user of a boat registered in the register of boats of the Republic of Croatia, of a foreign yacht or a boat shall, prior to staying or navigating in the internal waters or the territorial sea of the Republic of Croatia, register their stay or navigation to the nearest harbourmaster's office or branch office in order to regulate the obligation to pay fees. If a foreign yacht or boat navigates or stays in the internal waters or the territorial sea of the Republic of Croatia for more than a year, the owner or user shall pay the fee 30 days after the expiration of each year to which the fee relates. The fee amount depends on the length and overall strength of the yacht or boat propulsion systems.

	L under 40 meters	L 40 meters and over
$P_{uk}$ under 3000 kW*	$2 \times P_{uk} + 45 \times L^{**}$	$7500 + 25 \times L$
$P_{uk}$ 3000 kW and stronger	$7500 + 25 \times L$	$7500 + 25 \times L$

Boat sides		
	L under 40 meters	L 40 meters and over
$P_{uk}$ under 3000 kW	$2 \times P_{uk} + 30 \times L$	$7500 + 10 \times L$
$P_{uk}$ 3000 kW and stronger	$7500 + 10 \times L$	$7500 + 10 \times L$

\* The total power of propulsion systems ( $P_{uk}$ ) is the total power of propulsion systems expressed in kilowatts (kW).

\*\* The length (L) designates the length of the vessel expressed in metres.

#### 1.3. FEE FOR USE OF NAVIGATION SAFETY FACILITIES (LIGHT DUES)

National and foreign yachts and boats pay a fee for the use of navigation safety facilities in internal waters and the territorial sea of the Republic of Croatia. The obligation to pay a fee arises when a vessel sails into a port or anchorage of internal waters or the territorial sea of the Republic of Croatia. Domestic and foreign boats and

yachts pay an annual fee for the current (calendar) year. The fee amount is determined in accordance with the formula in table 2, and it depends on the length of the yacht or boat.

Boat (L \* <12 m) L x HRK 10

Yacht (L ≥ 12 m) L x HRK 25

\* *LENGTH (L) is the length of a boat or yacht as stated in the boat or yacht records expressed in meters.*

#### 1.4. THE SOJOURN TAX FEE

The vessel owners or users pay the sojourn tax for themselves and all persons spending the night on that vessel on a lump sum basis. In this sense, a vessel is every vessel over 5 m in length with built-in beds, which is used for rest, recreation or cruising, and which is not a nautical tourism vessel. The lump sum of the sojourn tax is paid by sailors prior to the departure of the vessel in the harbourmaster's offices or branch offices, when they stay overnight in nautical tourism ports or at a berth in the nautical part of a port open for public transport. Harbourmaster offices or branch offices shall issue a sojourn tax receipt to sailors who have paid the sojourn tax in the lump sum. The lump sum of the sojourn tax for sailors depends on the length of the vessel and the time period for which sailors purchase the sojourn tax. The invoice for the paid sojourn tax must always be on the vessel and the master of the vessel must present it at the request of an authorized person.

	5 – 9 m	9 – 12 m	12 – 15 m	15 – 20 m	Over 20 m
up to 8 days	HRK 130	HRK 400	HRK 500	HRK 650	HRK 950
up to 15 days	HRK 240	HRK 700	HRK 950	HRK 1200	HRK 1800
up to 30 days	HRK 400	HRK 1200	HRK 1600	HRK 2000	HRK 3000
up to 90 days	HRK 950	HRK 2900	HRK 3850	HRK 4800	HRK 7200
up to 1 year	HRK 2000	HRK 5800	HRK 7700	HRK 9600	HRK 14500

*Sojourn tax lump sum paid by sailors according to the length of the vessel and the duration of the tourist vignette*

#### 1.5. VESSEL USER POWER OF ATTORNEY

The owner of the vessel, members of his/her immediate family and the persons with written power of attorney granted by the owner of the vessel may be present during a voyage on board a vessel navigating in the Republic of Croatia, owned by a natural person or natural persons. The signature of the owner on the written power of attorney must be certified by a domestic or foreign competent authority.

Employees of the legal entity or persons authorized to use the vessel based on a written power of attorney may be present on board a vessel owned by a legal entity, navigating in the Republic of Croatia.

The text of the power of attorney for vessels owned by a legal entity must contain clearly written name and surname of the responsible person in the legal entity who has signed and stamped the power of attorney, the time period of use of the vessel for which the power of attorney is granted, the name and surname of the person responsible for the operation of the vessel if the vessel does not have permanently employed crew and the names of all the persons who will remain on board the vessel for the duration of the power of attorney.

## 2. DOCUMENTS ON BOARD THE VESSEL

The following original documents must be located on a vessel navigating in the Republic of Croatia for verification purposes:

1. Evidence that all fees have been paid
2. Proof that the vessel is sea-worthy
3. Proof that the person who is in command of the vessel is capable of operating a vessel in accordance with the national regulations of the flag State, or in accordance with the regulations of the Republic of Croatia
4. Proof of third-party liability insurance
5. Proof of ownership or power of attorney for the use of the vessel.

Any vessel entering the customs territory of the EU may be subject to the control of the customs authorities, either of the Republic of Croatia, or of any other EU member state. Therefore, EU residents should always have on board evidence that customs and/or VAT was paid for the said vessel in one of the EU member states, i.e. proof that the vessel has the community goods status. The following can be evidence that a vessel has a community goods status:

1. Document T2L or
2. Original invoice or
3. Certificate from a tax authority or
4. Other available document on paid VAT.

## 3. PERMITS FOR OPERATING BOATS AND YACHTS

In order to operate a boat or yacht, a person must be trained in accordance with the regulations of the flag state of the boat or yacht, and if no training on boat operation is prescribed in the home country, Croatian regulations apply. A person operating a boat or yacht of Croatian nationality, depending on the category of the boat and/or yacht, must possess a Boat master competency certificate or a Proficiency certificate for yacht helmsman or a document/permit to operate a boat or yacht issued by the competent authorities of foreign countries and recognized by the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure. A list of recognized foreign documents/permits is published on the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure website:

[http://www.mppi.hr/UserDocImages/TABLICA%20\(2\)MoU%206-2\\_13.pdf](http://www.mppi.hr/UserDocImages/TABLICA%20(2)MoU%206-2_13.pdf)

## 4. DEPARTURE OF VESSELS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Before sailing from the Republic of Croatia, the master of the vessel shall do the following:

1. Undergo border control
2. Verify the list of crew and passengers on board the vessel at the harbourmaster's office or branch office.

After fulfilling the above obligations, the master of the vessel shall leave the internal waters and the territorial sea of the Republic of Croatia using the shortest possible route.

## 5. REGISTERING THE STAY OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN CROATIA

Foreign nationals staying on the vessel have to report to the following:

- the police station responsible for controlling the crossing of the state border in the port where border control is carried out if the foreign national enters on the vessel where they will stay
- the police administration or police station according to the embarkation point of the foreign national.

Legal entities and natural persons providing mooring services in a nautical tourism port, if the foreign national has come for the first time on the vessel on which they will stay, shall report to the Ministry of Internal Affairs the foreign national's permanent residence, as well as all other legal entities or natural persons providing mooring services in a nautical tourism port to the same foreign national.

#### 5.1. NATIONALS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (EEA) MEMBER STATES

Nationals of the EEA member states may enter the Republic of Croatia if:

1. They have a valid travel document or personal identification card
2. They do not have an entry and stay ban
3. They do not pose a threat to public order, national security or public health.

Citizens of EEA member states may enter the Republic of Croatia without a visa or residence permit and may reside in the Republic of Croatia up to three months from the date of entry. A citizen of an EEA member state who intends to reside for more than three months in the Republic of Croatia shall, no later than eight days after the expiration of the three month period, notify the relevant police administration or police station according to their place of residence, of their temporary residence.

#### 6. CUSTOMS AND TAX STATUS OF FOREIGN BOATS AND YACHTS

By joining the European Union (EU) on 1 July 2013, the Republic of Croatia has become part of the EU customs union, which means that after that date, EU residents can no longer place their vessels in the temporary importation process into Croatia. Vessels that EU residents placed in a temporary importation procedure in Croatia prior to 1 July 2013, regardless of the flag of the vessel, may remain in the temporary importation procedure no later than the expiry of the temporary importation period approved by the competent customs office. Following the expiry of the period of temporary importation, EU residents shall complete the temporary importation procedure in accordance with EU regulations in one of three possible ways:

1. Releasing the vessel for free circulation or
2. Re-exporting into a third country (outside the EU) or
3. Sending the vessel (in the T1 transit procedure) to another EU member state.

If EU residents want to release a vessel for free circulation in the Republic of Croatia, they are obliged to submit a customs declaration to the relevant customs offices, which will then calculate and collect the import duty and the value added tax (VAT), except in the following cases:

1. The import duty will not be charged in the following cases:
  - A. If the owner of the vessel submits proof that the vessel has community goods status (proven by submitting a T2L document) or
  - B. By submitting a document proving the preferential origin of the goods (EUR 1 issued no later than 30 June 2013).
2. The VAT will not be charged in the following cases:

- A. If the owner of the vessel furnishes proof that the VAT has already been charged in one of the EU member states or
- B. If the date of first use of the vessel was more than eight years before the date of Croatia's accession to the EU or
- C. If the amount of VAT that the vessel owner has to pay is less than HRK 160.00 (approximately EUR 22).

For vessels owned by third-country residents placed in the temporary importation procedure before 1 July 2013, upon the expiry of the temporary importation deadline, the procedure should also be completed as in the case of an EU resident. Also, if owners of vessels from third countries decide to release a vessel for free circulation in Croatia, the same conditions apply to them as for vessels owned by EU residents. When third-country nationals decide to end the temporary importation process by re-exporting the vessels outside the EU customs territory, they may in the future seek re-approval of temporary importation of vessels into the EU and the procedure will be granted subject to the fulfilment of all prescribed conditions.

## 7. SAFETY AT SEA

There is a search and rescue at sea service in the Republic of Croatia, consisting of coastal guard boats, special purpose vessels and airplanes and helicopters. The service is managed by the National Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, which is on duty 24/7, while eight harbourmaster's offices and branch offices, coastal radio stations, guarded lighthouses and the search and rescue unit are also on permanent duty. Permanent duty has been established on VHF channels 10 and 16, while the National Centre has the telephone number 155 for all the needs at sea (from abroad +385 51 155). A unique emergency telephone number for emergency services in the Republic of Croatia is also available at 112. Speedboats, jet boats, and floatation boats can only glide in areas where this is allowed, which should not be closer than 300 m from the coast.