

NEW REGULATIONS for visiting yachts in Turkey

New rules will make it even easier to cruise and stay in Turkish waters from May 2010. In the meantime existing rules remain valid:

- The transit Log - Cruising permit costs 60 US\$ in total and valid for 1 year.
- Visiting yacht can stay in Turkish waters up to 5 years with no additional tax or formality.
- The spare parts for the yacht can be imported to Turkey with no import tax.
- The captain and the crew will receive 90 days tourist visa and it is renewable by visiting a nearby Greek Island or applying for residence permit up to 5 years.

The Turkish Parliament approved the new regulations on 24th July 2009. The entry and departure formalities will be completed through a digital system starting from May 2010. Under the new system, the Harbour Master at the first port of entry will be the sole authority required to approve the Cruising Permit for visiting yachts. An immigration check on the passports will be made on entry and departure. The cruising permit will allow the yacht to cruise and stay in Turkey for one year. The Harbour Master's office will send the copies to the other authorities' offices through their electronic connections. At the end of the year, the cruising permit will be renewed at the Harbour Master's Office.

Visiting yachts are still struggling with the formalities **to import tax free spare parts for their yachts** to Turkey but we hope and believe that the formalities will be much simpler starting from June 2010.

BLUE CARD SCHEME (MUĞLA)

The Muğla district coast has been announced as the Pilot Area for the new environmental program to protect the sea against pollution created by Sea Going Vessels such as Commercial Yachts, Gulet's, fishing boats, and private yachts. Waste water may not be discharged to the sea, even if over three miles from shore, but must be collected in Grey water tanks, and toilet waste in Black water tanks. Waste tanks must be discharged at shore-based pump out stations.

The scheme was announced in August 2009 but the authorities could not start enforcement as the necessary shore and sea facilities were not completed. There is a new announcement from the Muğla District Authorities that enforcement will start on 1st March 2010.

AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLUE CARD SCHEME

MUĞLA GOVERNOR; Governor of Muğla district

TURMEPA; Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association

ÖÇK; Özel Çevre Koruma Kurulu, Special Environmental Protection Agency of Muğla District,

OTHER RELATED PARTIES

Turkish Coast Guard Commandant The coastguard has not yet received a direct order from the ministries. However the Muğla Governor has the authority to ask the Turkish Coast Guard organisation in Muğla region to start inspecting the Blue Card Scheme.

Harbour Masters are all under command of the Marine Affairs Ministry - under secretary. They have some reservations concerning the announcements by the Muğla Governor.

Turkish Tourism Ministry They don't support the new regulations but have not yet declared an official objection.

Turkish Chamber of Shipping is against the regulations. The Fethiye Branch has opened a court case to annul them.

BLUE CARD

All ships, including yachts, within the Muğla district coastline, from Bodrum to Fethiye, including Datca, Marmaris, Göcek, etc. are covered by the scheme. They will be required to carry a Blue Card, obtainable from marinas or from harbour master's offices, on arrival or before sailing. The cost of the Blue Card, which is a smart card recording boat and crew details, will be 75 TL. Implementation details have not yet been announced.

PUMP OUT STATIONS

Some stations are operational, but many of them are not yet. It is planned that there will be 30 stations (according to the meeting notes at Yacht Marine on 30th October 2009). Organisations responsible are listed on the Turmepa web site.

CONTROLS & FINES

The Turkish Coast Guard & Muğla District Governor Office boats are authorised to inspect the electronic Blue Cards. Details are not yet available. However ships will be expected to discharge waste water to the stations regularly, and volumes assessed per person on board per day.

NEW RESTRICTIONS IN GÖCEK - DALAMAN BAYS, TURKEY

As from 1st August 2009, new rules restricting the use of the Göcek-Dalaman bays came into force:

- Ships may only moor at defined mooring points, in marinas, on quays, or where buoys and bollards have been provided (not trees). This limits the number of vessels in the area.
- Ships must conform to the Blue Card scheme, and have grey water tanks for the collection of waste water.
- Restrictions on music, cooking in the open (on deck or ashore), and diving