

Blue Card notes from SDF at Marmaris 30/10 2009

At the Skippers De-Stress the Blue Card scheme came under discussion again. Derya from Yacht Marine was able to answer questions after having spoken with a representative from Mugla District council. We will give the salient points and it is important to remember that as visiting yotties we can only hope to understand and comply with the new scheme, not try and change it. We have attached the text from the leaflet explaining the Blue Card scheme available in offices in the area.

1. **All** yachts, commercial and private, of all sizes, must comply with the Blue Card scheme. There is no lower limit in size or capacity given.
2. All yachts will have to purchase a Blue Card (70tl for life) in order to present it when pumping out. There is no link at present with the Transit Log but the intention is that there will be once the scheme is fully operative.
3. Only Black Tanks are required for the smaller yachts but the ***grey water must be put into the black tank***, and hence pumped out. There are 27 pump out facilities in the Bodrum to Fethiye area in which the scheme is being initiated. A map showing the locations is intended to be printed.
4. It is intended to bring the scheme to fruition over two years.
5. There is no intention that marinas will police the scheme and prevent yachts from launching or leaving if they do not comply. At present even the harbourmasters are not directly involved in the scheme and they are the body that give permission to sail in Turkish Waters.
6. The fines proposed for non-compliance will be between 15 and 52 Turkish Lira times the tonnage. (eg. for a 12 ton boat it could be between 180 and 624tl). The scheme will be policed by the Guvenlik (Coast Guard) and at present a ***3 mile limit will not be recognised for the purposes of dumping the black tank***. The Blue Card will record the date and volume pumped out. The charges will be set by Government. (not yet set, but will be based on a cubic volume rate).

We let you make your own interpretation of all of this. There are clearly many 'what if' questions which would create many problems for the scheme to function smoothly, Whether or not we consider the scheme unworkable we can only comply as best we can whilst sailing in these waters. It is the intention that the whole of Turkey will be included once this 'pilot scheme' has ironed out the problems. The scheme was first legislated 5 years ago but implementation had not been worked out.

The consensus of the SDF was that the scheme was good in principal, to get a cleaner environment, but the jury was still out on how the implementation could be successfully achieved. The majority of yachts represented at the meeting already had black tanks and would now have to consider the addition of grey water plumbing.

Notes compiled by Brian from Chinook of Canada

