

What to do when entering port.

Congrats to Capt. J.C. Wilkinson, *Pashka* from Irvine, TX

What flag should you fly?

1. The vessel's national ensign should be flown from the aft gaff, after stay or aft flagstaff (e.g. the U.S. flag for a U.S. vessel). A vessel may NOT fly the U.S. yacht ensign or the USPS ensign in lieu of the American flag.
2. The flag for the host country being entered should be flown from the starboard spreader.
3. The pratique flag (the international flag "Q") should be flown below the host country's flag on the starboard spreader until the vessel and crew have been cleared by customs and immigration.

What steps should you take prior to entering port?

1. Clean up the vessel. Place everything in order.
2. Clean up the captain and/or crew to make a good impression.
3. Prepare the vessel's and crew's documents.
4. Flush wastewater tanks before entering three-mile limit.
5. Jettison legal garbage (e.g. food waste) before entering three-mile limit.
6. Unload firearms, if entering with firearms.
7. Restrain pets, if entering with pets.
8. Jettison prohibited items before entering territorial waters.

What documents must you have available?

1. Original vessel documentation.
2. Owners' authority for captain to operate, if vessel is owned by a separate entity (eg. company).
3. Multiple copies of crew list.
4. Passport for each person on board the vessel.

5. Visa for each person on board, if required.
6. *Zarpe* (clearance) from the last country visited.
7. Custom's declaration if carrying certain items from home port (e.g. firearms from U.S.).
8. In some countries, proof of captain's competency (e.g. European Yachmaster or USCG captain).
9. For some countries, an international immunization certificate for each person aboard.
10. Doctors' prescriptions for prescription drugs.
11. Pet vaccination records, if carrying pet.
12. Proof of financial ability, or prepaid airline ticket, if entering a country with paid crew.

Other documents which may be useful:

- Owner's authority granted to alternate operator (e.g. first mate in case captain is absent).
- Authority signed by both parents, if traveling with minor children.
- Marriage license to prove authority to act on one another's behalf.
- Medical authority and/or medical powers of attorney for crew members.
- General powers of attorney for couples.