



S.I. 2025 No. 38

MERCHANT SHIPPING (VESSEL FEES) REGULATIONS, 2025

Arrangement of Regulations

1. Citation
2. Definitions
3. Purpose
4. Guiding principles
5. Shipping (fee) notice
6. Late payment penalties
7. Failure to pay tonnage tax
8. Fees – authorization
9. Collection of fees
10. Tax, fees and penalties
11. Fees subject to change
12. Discounts subject to change
13. Services and fees not specified
14. Contributory Fees to Barbados' International Participation

15. Fee Waivers

Merchant Shipping Act

(Act 2024–28)

MERCHANT SHIPPING (VESSEL FEES) REGULATIONS, 2025

The Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 1476 of the *Merchant Shipping Act*, makes the following Regulations:

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the *Merchant Shipping (Vessel Fees) Regulations, 2025*.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations,

“Act” means the *Merchant Shipping Act, 2024* (Act 2024-28);

“Administration” means the Ministry responsible for Shipping;

“GT” means gross tonnage;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for Shipping; and

“shipping (fee) notice” means a notice specifying services and fees in relation to a shipping business and issued pursuant to these Regulations.

Purpose

3. The purpose of these Regulations is to provide for the charging of fees in respect of maritime activities engaged in by

- (a) vessels above 150 GT;
- (b) ferries above 150 GT; and
- (c) yachts above 24 metres in length

and other incidental matters.

Guiding principles

4.(1) The following guiding principles shall be applied in setting any fees in respect of services provided to Barbados-registered vessels:

- (a) maintaining economic attractiveness of the Barbados Ships' Registry;
- (b) ensuring economic competitiveness of the Barbados Registry;
- (c) providing affordable rates commensurate with services offered to clients of the Registry; and
- (d) continuing to provide an economically viable environment for owners of Barbados-registered vessels to operate in.

(2) Fees imposed on vessels to which these regulations apply shall be proportionate to the gross or net tonnage of the vessel, as the case may be.

Shipping (fee) notice

5.(1) Fees in respect of shipping-related services provided by or on behalf of the Administration shall be published by the Minister in a shipping (fee) notice.

(2) Fees specified in a shipping (fee) notice are payable in accordance with that notice.

Late payment penalties

6.(1) An amount that remains unpaid after the due date for the payment of fees shall incur a penalty equal to a percentage of the amount due, according to the following scale:

- (a) 90 days overdue - 10%;
- (b) 120 days overdue - 20%; and
- (c) 180 days overdue - 30%

(2) A debtor is liable for payment of the outstanding amount plus any penalties without regard to any other measures taken to ensure payment.

Failure to pay tonnage tax

7.(1) With regard to other measures that may be taken by the Administration to ensure payment, the continued validity of a certificate of registry shall be contingent upon the timely payment of tonnage taxes, fees and other charges against the vessel and on the fulfilment of any other requirements as prescribed by the Administration.

(2) A failure to make such payments may result in the invalidation of the certificate of registry.

Fees – authorization

8.(1) The only fees chargeable in connection with the registration, certification and inspection of vessels under the Act, or any other official maritime act or service, shall be as specified in the Act or as established by a shipping (fee) notice.

(2) No fee shall be chargeable unless it appears in a consolidated list of fees published in a shipping (fee) notice at the direction of the Administration.

Collection of fees

9.(1) All fees chargeable under these Regulations shall be paid in Barbados dollars.

(2) Cheques or bank drafts for the payment of fees shall be drawn on a United Kingdom or a United States bank, or the United Kingdom or United States branch of an international bank.

(3) Unless otherwise instructed by the Minister, payments shall be made to the Administration.

Tax, fees and penalties

10. Any tax, fee, penalty or other charge payable under the Act, these Regulations or a shipping (fee) notice shall constitute a maritime lien on the vessel involved and shall be paid in full when due.

Fees subject to change

11.(1) The fees specified in a shipping (fee) notice are subject to change by the Administration, after consultation with the Minister, in consultation with the Principal Registrar of International Ships, having regard to existing shipping market conditions and any other relevant considerations.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Principal Registrar may change such fees as he considers necessary for the sustainable operation and viability of the Barbados International Ships' Registry, and shall notify the Director of Ocean Affairs 6 weeks in advance of any fee changes and provide the justification for the change.

(3) The Director shall inform the Minister of proposed fee changes and of the justifications for them provided by the Principal Registrar.

(4) A change of fees shall be published in a shipping (fee) notice.

Discounts subject to change

12.(1) Any discounts specified in a shipping (fee) notice are subject to change by the Administration, on the recommendation of the Principal Registrar of International Ships and with the approval of the Minister.

(2) In changing a fee, the Minister shall have due consideration to

- (a) maintaining the attractiveness of the ships' registry; and
- (b) existing shipping market conditions.

Services and fees not specified

13. Fees for services not specified in a shipping (fee) notice may be specified in a merchant shipping notice.

Contributory Fees to Barbados' International Participation

14.(1) The cost incurred by Barbados to represent the fleet of registered vessels in international maritime affairs shall be defrayed by the payment of an annual fee based upon registered gross tonnage.

(2) The fees payable for these matters are as specified in a *Shipping (Fee) Notice*.

(3) The fees may be adjusted upwards for exchange rate differences to meet the obligations of assessments imposed in foreign currencies.

(4) The following shall be exempted from payment of contributory fees towards Barbados' international participation:

- (a) private yachts of any tonnage;
- (b) private yachts with a limited charter of any tonnage; and
- (c) commercial yachts of less than 400 GT.

(5) The fees collected under this Part shall be applied as follows:

- (a) assessments - costs covered shall relate to assessments and dues payable under the terms of international maritime conventions and maritime agreements to which Barbados is Party;
- (b) participation and representation - costs covered shall relate to attendance and support of delegations or representatives of Barbados at international maritime meetings and conferences, and to support of representatives of Barbados engaged in maritime diplomatic negotiation.

Fee Waivers

15. The Minister may wholly or partially waive any fees to be paid pursuant to a shipping (fee) notice.

Made by the Minister this 23rd day of April, 2025.

G.P.I. GOODING-EDGHILL

Minister responsible for Shipping