

How to obtain an International Route between the USVI and BVI.

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This guide is designed to assist you in preparing for your vessel to obtain a SOLAS Passenger Ship Safety Certificate for operation between the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. This document is not all-inclusive, nor is it intended to replace the regulations. You must always refer back to the regulations to determine the exact requirements applicable to your vessel or operation.

The United States in IMO SL.14/Circ. 87 of 1987 communicated with the International Maritime Organization that a vessel meeting 46 CFR Subchapter T is equivalent to the provision of chapters II-1, II-2 and III of SOLAS for passenger ships to allow small passenger vessels to operate on international voyage which do not proceed more than 20 mile from the nearest land, provided that each vessel also meets the following

- a. is less than 100 gross registered tons;
- b. carries no more than 150 passengers;
- c. has over night accommodation for less than 50 passengers;
- d. is equipped with inflatable liferafts (or inflatable buoyant apparatus in warmer waters for 100% of the persons onboard; and
- e. is certificated by the U.S. Coast Guard for an ocean route.

In addition to meeting the requirements of 46 Code of Federal Regulations Subchapter T all the following items on the proceeding pages must be completed prior to a vessel being issued International Certificates.

Item	Requirement
Application for Inspection	<p>Submit an Application for Inspection of U.S. Vessel (CG-3752) requesting the change in route. http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/forms1/FORMS/CG_3752.pdf</p> <p>Note: The Certificate of Inspection is valid for one (1) year of vessels carrying more than 12 passengers on international voyages. 46 CFR 176.107(a)</p>
Certificate of Documentation	<p>Vessels that have a Certificate of Documentation must have a Registry Endorsement. 46 CFR 67.17</p> <p>http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/vdoc/instr.htm</p>
Continuous Synopsis Record	<p>Must have a Continuous Synopsis Record (CSR). The Application for the CSR (CG-6039) can be downloaded from: http://cgweb.comdt.uscg.mil/g-mp/forms.html</p> <p>Note: The CSR Notice on the above web site explains where to submit the application</p>
International Tonnage Certificate	<p>Must have an International Tonnage Certificate if vessel is 79 feet or greater in length. 46 CFR 69.5(2).</p> <p>A list of Current Authorized Measurement Organizations can be found on the Tonnage web page of the Marine Safety Center at: http://www.uscg.mil/hq/msc/t3.htm</p>
Stability Letter	<p>1. NOT MORE THAN THREE (3) MILES FROM THE NEAREST LAND Have a Stability Letter for Exposed Waters.</p> <p>2. NOT MORE THAN TWENTY (20) MILES FROM THE NEAREST LAND Have an Stability Letter for Exposed Waters</p> <p>Note: Stability will be re-evaluated to determine if the additional of Survival Craft required below will require a new stability test to be conducted.</p>
Drydock Interval	<p>Required to undergo a drydock examination once every twelve (12) months 46 CFR 176.600(b)</p>

Item	Requirement
Navigation Equipment	All vessel must carry charts and publications in accordance with 46 CFR 184.420
	Less than 150 Gross Tons (GT)
	Exempt from the carriage requirements of SOLAS 74, as amended, Chapter V/19 in accordance with FR 69 42193 and NVIC 02-03. Must meet 46 CFR Subchapter T requirements. http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/03/02-03.pdf
	150 GT and greater built before 1 July 2002
	Must be fitted with a receiver for global navigation satellite system or terrestrial radio navigation system, or other means, SOLAS 74, as amended, V/19/2.1.6
	150 GT and greater built on or after 1 July 2002
	<p>Must meet SOLAS 74, as amended, Chapter V/19.2.1, 19.2.2 and 19.2.3</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proper adjusted standard magnetic compass V/19.2.1.1 2. A Spare magnetic compass, interchangeable with above, V/19.2.2.1 3. A pelorus or compass bearing device, V/19.2.1.2 4. Means of correcting heading and bearing to true at all times V/19.2.1.3 5. A receiver for global navigation satellite system or terrestrial radio navigation system, or other means, V/19.2.1.6 6. Daylight signaling lamp. 7. Echo-sounding device, V/19.2.3.1 8. 9 GHz radar, or other means, V/19.2.3.2 9. An electronic plotting aid, V/19.2.3.3 10. Speed and distance measuring device, or other means, V/19/2.3.4 11. A properly adjusted transmitting heading device, or other means, V/19.2.3.5

Item	Equipment	Requirements
Lifesaving	Survival Craft	Not more than 3 miles from land
		Have 100% lifefloats for all people onboard (OCMI Policy Letter 2-93) Meet 46 CFR 180.137 and 46 CFR 180.200(a)(3)
	>3 from land	
	Meet survival craft requirements of 46 CFR Subchapter W	
	Lifejacket light/whistle	Meet 46 CFR 199.70(b)(2)
Ring life buoy	Meet 180.70 and be orange in color	
Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As required by 46 CFR 80.64, or Required if vessel's route is less than three miles from the nearest land and the FCC has not granted an exemption (see radio requirements below). <p>Proof of registration with NOAA. http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/</p>	

Item	Requirements
Safety Management System (SMS)	<p>Have an approved SMS in accordance with 33 CFR 96 or an International Safety Management Code equivalence in accordance with MSM Vol. II, Section E, Chapter 3.C.5</p> <p>Call to receive copy of Template</p>
Official Log Book	Maintain as Per 46 CFR 185.280
Crew & Passenger List	As per 46 CFR 185.502. A completed INS Form I-418 for the current voyage maybe used to meet this requirement.
Voyage Plan	As Per 46 CFR 185.503.
Vessel Security Plan (VSP)	<p>Submit a VSP to the MSC at least 60 days prior to intended operations.</p> <p>Proof that Company; vessel personnel and other vessel personnel meet the training requirements of 33 CFR 104.220 and 140.225.</p> <p>Provide proof that a security drill was conducted as per 33 CFR 104.230.</p> <p>Complete a CG verification of VSP.</p> <p>Must complete all of the above before an International Ship Security Certificate will be issued.</p> <p>Conduct a security drill at least every 3-month and an exercise every 18-months as per 33 CFR 104.230.</p>
Automatic Identification System (AIS)	<p>Automatic exempt given if vessel is under 150 International Gross Tons (IGT).</p> <p>Required to be installed if vessel is 150 IGT or greater, no exemptions will be granted, must be installed prior to operation. 33 CFR 164.46(a)(2)(i)</p>
Voyage Data Recorder (VDR)	Install a VDR or request exemption in accordance with G-MOC Policy letter 04-05. http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/moc/docs.htm
Ship Security Alert System (SSAS)	<p>Install a SSAS or request from G-MPS-1 to use Alternate Security Agreement between the US and BVI to use cellular or satellite phones.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must receive the approval letter for G-MPS-1, and 2. Submit a SSAS Annex to the VSP the Marine Safety Center in accordance with NVIC 4-03 Enclosure 5. SSAS Annex must be approved. <p>http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/</p> <p>Call for template of SSAS Annex.</p>

Item	Personnel	Requirements
Manning	Master	<p>100 ton Masters license or higher with a STCW II/3 endorsement.</p> <p>Provide proof of completing STCW V/3 Training for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crowd Control 2. Crisis Management & Human Behavior Training
	Deckhand	<p>Provide proof of completing STCW training for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. STCW V/3, Crowd Control 2. STCW VI/1, Vessel familiarization training and Basic Safety Training or Instruction , as appropriate.
Security Training	Company and Vessel personnel	<p>Provide proof that all company and vessel personnel responsible for security have completed Security Training for Company and Vessel personal in accordance with 33 CFR 104.220 and or 104.225</p> <p>Note: May use the National Transit Institute "Security Awareness for Passenger Vessel Employees. http://www.ntionline.com</p>
FCC Radio Operator License	Master or deckhand	<p>One person must have an appropriate operator license in accordance with 47 CFR 80.159(e). http://wireless.fcc.gov/commoperators/mp.html</p> <p>One person must have a restricted radiotelephone operator permit if vessel is subject to the Bridge to Bridge Act. (Every power-driven vessel of 20 meters (65.61 feet) or over in length while navigating 47 CFR 80.1001).</p> <p>Note: The service of each ship station must at all times be under the ultimate control of the master, who must require that each operator or such station comply with the Radio Regulations in force and that the ship station is used in accordance with those regulations. 47 CFR 80.114(a)</p>

Item	Requirements
Communications	<p data-bbox="576 268 1031 304">Less than three (3) miles from land</p> <p data-bbox="592 315 1153 420">Meet FCC requirements 47 CFR Subpart S. http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=%2Findex.tpl</p> <p data-bbox="592 462 1315 493">Fitted with a VHF radiotelephone. 47 CFR 80.933(c)(1).</p> <p data-bbox="592 535 1445 640">Inspecting technician must submit FCC Form 806 to the Office in Charge Marine Inspection in accordance with 47 CFR 80.59(a)(3). http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form806/806.pdf</p> <p data-bbox="625 682 1429 735">Note: Must be completed every year before being issued new International Certificates</p> <p data-bbox="592 777 1445 924">The FCC-licensed technician must use the latest FCC information Bulletin, “How to Conduct an Inspection of a Small Passenger Vessel”. http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Compliance/Orders/1998/fcc98075.txt</p> <p data-bbox="592 966 1323 1071">Have the FCC Station License updated to include current owner/operator and any required equipment. http://wireless.fcc.gov/marine/fctsht14.html</p>

Item	Requirements
Communications (continued)	More than three (3) miles but not more than 20 miles from land
	<p>Meet all that above requirements for a vessel on voyage less than 3 miles for land and be fitted with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VHF radiotelephone. 47 CFR 80.933(c)(1) 2. A Category 1, 406.0 – 406.1 MHz EPIRB meeting 47 CFR 80.1061 3. A NAVTEX receiver meeting 47 CFR 80.1101(c)(1) 4. Three (3) two-way VHF portable radiotelephone apparatus meeting 47 CFR 80.1095 5. Two (2) radar transponders meeting 47 CFR 80.1095