

SEA LICENSING

Honduras Ship Registration

Requirements, procedures and registry pathways

This reference consolidates the ship-registration information published by the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine of Honduras (DGMM) into a single English-language working document for Sea Licensing clients.

Important: Requirements can change and may vary by vessel type, age, ownership, previous registry, operational profile and the stage of registration. Sea Licensing should confirm the current DGMM pathway before filing.

Quick Reference

Administration	General Directorate of the Merchant Marine of Honduras (DGMM)
Provisional registry validity	6 months
Possible provisional extension	3 months; one extension only
Registry contact	registro@marinamercante.gob.hn
DGMM general contact	+504 2239-8228 / 8203; +504 2239-8334 / 8346 / 8335

1. Ship Registry Department

The DGMM Ship Registry Department records vessels and the natural or legal persons connected with them as owners, leaseholders or shipowners. Its published functions include:

- Granting Honduran nationality to vessels that will navigate under the Honduran flag, subject to national law and applicable international maritime conventions.
- Registering vessel ownership to provide legal certainty.
- Registering maritime-sector commercial companies and shipyards so that their operations as maritime companies or shipping agencies are legally recognized.

Document quality

Documents filed with an application should be clean, unaltered and legible. Photocopies should be duly authenticated. DGMM advises applicants to submit the complete required file to avoid delays.

2. Registry Pathways Covered

- Provisional Registry
- Fishing Vessels
- Vessels older than 20 years
- Extension of Provisional Registry
- Certificate of Registry due to changes
- Property Registration of the Vessel
- Definitive Registry
- Special Registries
- Mortgage
- Registry Deletion Request
- Issuance of Proofs / Certificates

3. Provisional Registry

Owners, leaseholders or shipowners seeking Honduran registration apply to DGMM through a professional authorized to practice law in Honduras. For provisional registration, authenticated copies may be used temporarily; originals or final documents are required for definitive registration.

Validity: Six (6) months.

General requirements

1. Completed registry request form, available through DGMM's document-reception/customer-service section and the administration website.
2. Authenticated public deed of power or authenticated power of attorney, as applicable.
3. Original or authenticated copy of the title deed, lease or other legal instrument establishing possession or ownership of the vessel.
4. Tonnage Certificate for vessels over 78 ft / 24 m under ITC 69. For smaller vessels, the shipowner's Recognized Organization may issue a non-convention certificate; DGMM may alternatively issue a Simplified Tonnage Calculation certificate where applicable.
5. For cargo or passenger vessels, third-party liability insurance.

4. Fishing Vessels

International fishing vessels are required to provide additional evidence, including:

1. Evidence, at the provisional-registry stage, that the vessel appears on the relevant regional fisheries organization's list (such as CICA/ICCAT or CIAT/IATTC, as applicable).
2. Authorization from the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (DIGEPESCA).
3. Compliance with DGMM Resolution 024/2003.
4. Compliance with DGMM Agreement 021/2015.

5. Vessels Older Than 20 Years

Reconstructed vessels must provide supporting reconstruction documentation.

1. Authenticated reconstruction plans identifying the vessel changes as clearly as possible.
2. Authenticated shipyard letter stating the shipyard's address and contact details, the signatory's full name/title, the reconstruction period, structural changes carried out and an estimate of useful life if the vessel is properly maintained.
3. If the work was performed by a Honduran shipyard, evidence that the shipyard is registered with DGMM under Resolution 001/2004.

DGMM states that reconstruction evidence is reviewed by the Maritime Safety Department for approval, with reference to Resolutions 003/2005 and 001/2003.

6. Extension of Provisional Registry

Validity: Three (3) months; DGMM states that only one extension may be granted.

The attorney should submit the extension request before the current provisional certificate expires. DGMM's published guidance calls for certified copies of the third-party liability insurance policy where applicable.

7. Changes to the Certificate of Registry

For changes of vessel name, owner or leaseholder, structural changes, tonnage or activity, the attorney submits an application for the relevant provisional or definitive certificate so the change can be recorded.

Change of vessel name	Request name availability.
Change of owner	Bill of Sale or other instrument transferring ownership.
Structural change	Shipyard confirmation describing the alteration.
Change of tonnage	Tonnage Certificate issued by a Recognized Organization or recognized classification society.
Change of activity	Technical certificates showing the vessel is suitable for the new activity.

Where only provisional registration exists, DGMM indicates that a new provisional certificate may be issued for the requested change. Before definitive registration, the property record must reflect the change.

8. Property Registration of the Vessel

The attorney submits the property-registration application to DGMM's document-reception/customer-service section together with the Testimony of Public Deed and two photocopies. Property registration is a prerequisite for the Definitive Certificate of Registry. The deed should reflect the vessel particulars shown on the provisional certificate, the registry number and the immediately preceding ownership/registry background.

9. Definitive Registry

Fishing vessels

1. Authenticated public deed of power or power of attorney; foreign-issued documents must be duly legalized.
2. Original or authenticated copy of the property title, lease or other legal instrument showing possession/ownership, recorded in the Vessel Property Registry in Honduras, or a Public Deed submitted for that registration.
3. Legalized Deletion Certificate from the previous registry.
4. Tonnage Certificate issued by a Recognized Organization or classification society and duly endorsed where required.
5. For vessels over 20 years, a class confirmation or seaworthiness certificate issued by an authorized classification society or inspector, duly endorsed where applicable.
6. Evidence of the type of fishing to be conducted.
7. Declared area of operation using latitude/longitude limits.
8. Evidence of installation and operation of the satellite-monitoring system.
9. Continuous Synopsis Record, as applicable through the Maritime Safety Department.

Additional requirements for international fishing vessels

1. DIGEPESCA authorization.
2. Fishing statistics report to DGMM every three months, accompanied by a duly authenticated affidavit from the shipowner. DGMM states that the report is also to be provided to the competent international organizations for comparison.

General cargo ships, tugboats, barges and passenger vessels

1. Authenticated public deed of power or power of attorney; foreign-issued documents must be duly legalized.
2. Original or authenticated copy of the property title, lease or other legal instrument showing possession/ownership and registration in the Vessel Property Registry, or a Public Deed for the corresponding registration.
3. Legalized Deletion Certificate from the previous registry.
4. Tonnage Certificate issued by a Recognized Organization or classification society and properly endorsed.
5. For vessels over 20 years, a class confirmation or seaworthiness certificate issued by an authorized classification society or inspector, duly endorsed where applicable.
6. Certified copy, original or certification of third-party liability insurance.
7. Continuous Synopsis Record, as applicable through the Maritime Safety Department.

10. Special Registries

For a Special Registry, the attorney submits form RBRE 09.1 to DGMM's document-reception/customer-service section, fully completed, with the corresponding authenticated documentation.

1. Authenticated Public Deed of Power or authenticated Power of Attorney.
2. Original or authenticated copy of the title deed, lease or other legal instrument establishing possession/ownership.
3. Tonnage Certificate issued by a Recognized Organization or recognized classification society, duly endorsed where applicable.

4. For vessels over 20 years, an authorized class confirmation or seaworthiness certificate, duly endorsed where applicable.
5. Authenticated copy of the insurance policy for 90 days / three months.
6. Port of departure and port of arrival.

11. Mortgage Registration

For provisional mortgage registration, the attorney submits the request to DGMM's document-reception/customer-service section with the instrument that records or describes the mortgage lien.

12. Registry Deletion Request

For a vessel holding definitive registration, the attorney submits a registry-deletion request with the supporting documents.

1. Proof of cancellation from CONATEL (National Commission of Telecommunications).
2. For fishing vessels, proof of no outstanding debt with DIGEPESCA.
3. For fishing vessels, proof of solvency with the satellite-monitoring company.
4. Evidence of no outstanding debts with the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine of Honduras.

Where the vessel only obtained a Provisional Certificate of Registry, DGMM also requires evidence of deletion/cancellation of the prior registry.

13. Issuance of Proofs / Certificates

For issuance of registry proofs, the attorney submits the corresponding application to DGMM's document-reception/customer-service section, the supporting documents and evidence that the applicable fees have been paid.

14. Official Forms Referenced by DGMM

- Registry Request
- Safe Manning Document application form
- Continuous Synopsis Record Form I
- RBRE 09.1 (Special Registry)

Where Sea Licensing hosts a verified copy of an official form, it should be offered as a local download. Before use, confirm that the form version remains current with DGMM.

15. DGMM Contact Information

Office	General Directorate of the Merchant Marine of Honduras (DGMM)
Address	Boulevard Suyapa, Edificio Pietra, contiguo a ALUPAC, Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., Honduras, C.A.

Registry email	registro@marinamercante.gob.hn
Telephone	+504 2239-8228 / 8203
Additional telephone	+504 2239-8334 / 8346 / 8335
Published ship-registry assistance line	+504 2239-8320

Source & Use

Compiled from the English-language Ship Registry information published by the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine of Honduras. Source reviewed on 20 September 2026:

<https://merchantmarine.gob.hn/registro-de-buques/>

Sea Licensing working note

This document is a client-facing reference, not a substitute for the latest DGMM requirements, fees, forms, circulars, legal advice or case-specific administration instructions.