



Information Leaflet on Immigration Clearance of Visiting Pleasure Vessels

Immigration clearance at approved immigration anchorages

Vessels, including pleasure vessels, are required to present for immigration clearance upon arrival in and prior to departure from the Hong Kong waters. The master of the vessel has to anchor the vessel at one of the approved immigration anchorages and hoist the prescribed immigration examination signal whilst awaiting the immigration examination.

Approved immigration anchorages refer to the “Eastern Immigration Anchorage” which operates from 0600 to 1800 hours, the “Western Immigration Anchorage” and the “Tuen Mun Immigration Anchorage” both operating round the clock. Their locations are illustrated in the “Hong Kong Harbour Plan” issued by the Marine Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).

Immigration examination signal is, by day, the letters “HNN” shown by signal flag, and by night, three white lights in a vertical line one over the other, equally spaced at a distance of not less than one metre and visible from any direction at a distance of at least one nautical mile.

Under the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 115, Laws of Hong Kong, no person is allowed to leave or board a vessel which has arrived in Hong Kong (except Port Health officer or pilot in their course of duty) and nothing shall be removed from or taken or placed on board the vessel until immigration examination is completed.

Documents required for immigration examination

During immigration examination, the master of a vessel has to furnish the following documents:

- (i) Crew list in triplicate for arrival clearance and in duplicate for departure clearance;
- (ii) Passenger list in duplicate for both arrival and departure clearance;
- (iii) Travel documents or Hong Kong permanent identity card of all persons on board; and
- (iv) Completed arrival/departure cards of all persons on board, if necessary.

Where necessary, the master may be required to furnish further relevant documents.

Special arrangements for visiting pleasure vessels

Under the special arrangements, the master of a visiting pleasure vessel will not be required to anchor the vessel at an approved immigration anchorage for immigration examination, provided that he or his representative, being the responsible person for the passengers and crew members on board the vessel, presents within 24 hours after the arrival of the vessel in or before the intended departure from the Hong Kong waters, the aforementioned documents to the Harbour

Control Section of the Immigration Department of the HKSAR at 2nd floor, Central Government Pier, 32 Man Fai Street, Central, Hong Kong for immigration examination. The ship's document and a valid Port Clearance Permit issued by the Marine Department should also be produced at the time of immigration examination. Harbour Control Section operates round the clock.

The immigration clearance is on "boat-by-boat" basis, i.e. all documents must be presented for immigration examination in a single batch by ship name. Master of the vessel should ensure the composition of crew and passengers is fixed before presenting for immigration clearance. Any change in the composition of crew and passengers after immigration clearance must be reported to Harbour Control Section as soon as possible. Depending on circumstances, the vessel may be required to present for immigration clearance again.

Visa / entry permit requirements and conditions of stay for passengers of visiting pleasure vessels

Non-local passengers who are visa-free nationals or residents of Macao may be permitted to remain in Hong Kong on visitor condition in accordance with their respective visa-free period or entry permit-free period, subject to normal immigration requirements being met. Passengers who are visa-required nationals and residents of the Mainland or Taiwan are required to obtain a visit visa / exit endorsement / entry permit as appropriate before coming to Hong Kong in accordance with the existing entry arrangements.

Visa / entry permit requirements and conditions of stay for crew members of visiting pleasure vessels

Non-local crew members who are visa-free nationals or residents of Macao may be permitted to remain in Hong Kong for a period up to 90 days or until the vessel concerned departs Hong Kong, whichever is the earlier, subject to the condition that they are engaged solely in the operation of the vessel concerned at all times and normal immigration requirements being met. Crew members who are visa-required nationals and residents of the Mainland or Taiwan are required to obtain a visit visa / exit endorsement / entry permit as appropriate before coming to Hong Kong in accordance with the existing entry arrangements. They may be permitted to remain in Hong Kong for a period specified in the visa / exit endorsement / entry permit or until the vessel concerned departs Hong Kong, whichever is the earlier, subject to the condition that they are engaged solely in the operation of the vessel concerned at all times and normal immigration requirements being met.

For more information on visit visa / entry permit requirements for the HKSAR, please visit the Immigration Department's website at www.immd.gov.hk or refer to the pamphlet "Do you need a visa for the HKSAR?" (ID 290).

For more information, please contact the Information and Liaison Section of the Immigration Department at (852) 2824 6111 (office hours) or Harbour Control Section at (852) 2534 7119 (office hours) or (852) 2543 1958 (outside office hours), or by email to enquiry@immd.gov.hk.

Immigration Department
Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
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