



State of Alaska  
 Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
 Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
**BOARD OF MARINE PILOTS**  
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## PLEASURE CRAFT OF FOREIGN REGISTRY

In the State of Alaska, a pleasure craft of foreign registry that is 65 feet or longer is required to employ a state-licensed marine pilot while the pleasure craft is in mandatory pilotage waters of the state. [AS 08.62.160]

The operator of a pleasure craft of foreign registry of more than **65 feet** (19.8m) length overall, but less than **175 feet** (53.3m) length overall, may apply for an exemption from the state pilotage requirement. Exemptions are granted by the Alaska Board of Marine Pilots. [AS 08.62.180(b)-(e)]

A "pleasure craft" is defined as "a vessel that does not carry passengers or freight for hire" and "for hire" is described as "when consideration is contributed as a condition of carriage on a vessel, whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent, or other person having an interest in the vessel". [AS 08.62.180(e)]

**Application for Exemption:** To apply for an exemption from state pilotage requirements for transit as a pleasure craft, the operator of the pleasure craft must complete the attached application form and submit it to the Alaska State Marine Pilot Coordinator at least 30 days before the vessel enters state waters along with the required documentation and applicable fee. [AS 08.62.180(b)]

The application fee is \$250 plus \$50 for each whole foot in length of the vessel that exceeds 65 feet length overall. Overall length is measured from the foremost part of the stern to the aftermost part of the stern, including any fixed projections extending beyond the stem and stern. The application fee is non-refundable. Payment may be made by check, credit card, or money order. [AS 08.62.140(b), 12 AAC 02.010]

The application will be approved or denied within 10 working days from the date of its receipt by the AK Board of Marine Pilots. If additional information is requested from the applicant to complete or clarify the application for exemption, the 10-working-day time period is suspended while the Board is waiting for a response to its request. [AS 08.62.180(b)]

The captain or master aboard a pleasure craft seeking a pilotage exemption must hold a current mariner's license for the vessel's tonnage. A copy of the mariner's license must be submitted with the application, and for a pleasure craft greater than 200 gross tons, the master must hold a valid unlimited radar observer endorsement. [12 AAC 56.115(c)]

If the vessel is required under AS 46.04 to provide proof of financial responsibility, a current copy of the vessel's certificate of financial responsibility must be submitted with the application for pilotage exemption. [12 AAC 56.115(a)(H)]

The operator of a pleasure craft seeking an exemption from state pilotage requirements must employ a vessel agent from the register of agents maintained by the Board, and ensure the vessel is equipped with the following: [12 AAC 56.115(a)(2)]

- (a) a class A or B automatic identification system (AIS); and
- (b) radar; if the vessel is over 125 feet long, the radar must be ARPA capable; and
- (c) a depth sounder with depth alarm; and
- (d) a magnetic compass with a deviation table issued not later than one (1) year before the date of application for an exemption; and
- (e) one or more VHF radios capable of simultaneously monitoring Channels 13 and 16; and

(f) for each area of the state to be transited, current copies of each of the following:

- all applicable nautical charts
- applicable *Coast Pilot(s)*
- tide tables
- tidal current tables
- *Southeast Alaska Voluntary Waterway Guide* (if traveling Southeast region)
- *Tongass Narrows Users Guide* (if traveling Tongass Narrows)
- vessel transit system regulations (if traveling Prince William Sound)

If a pleasure craft of foreign registry of more than 65 feet overall length enters compulsory pilotage waters without a pilot or a pilotage exemption, the operator of the pleasure craft will not be granted a subsequent pilotage exemption until the operator provides the AK State Marine Pilot Coordinator satisfactory documentation detailing the pleasure craft's entry into compulsory pilotage waters and all subsequent voyages in violation of Alaska law, and pays the appropriate charges for pilotage services which should have been used. [12 AAC 56.115]

**Conditions of Operation:** An exemption granted by the Board will be confirmed in writing and a certificate provided. A pleasure craft is not exempt from state pilotage requirements until the vessel operator has received their certificate. The operator of the vessel must **retain the exemption certificate on board** while the vessel is in state waters. An exemption from state pilotage requirements is valid for one year from the date on which the exemption was issued, unless surrendered by the applicant or revoked by the Board. [AS 08.62.180(b)]

While **underway** in compulsory pilotage waters, the master of a pleasure craft with a current pilotage exemption must ensure the following: [12 AAC 56.115(d)]

- (1) the vessel transmits via an automatic identification system (AIS) the vessel's name, length, beam, draft, course, speed, and destination;
- (2) an individual who speaks and understands English is present on the bridge;
- (3) the vessel crew simultaneously monitors VHF radio channels 13 and 16; and
- (4) while the vessel is transiting the Prince William Sound VTS lanes, the vessel master is present on the bridge.

A pilotage exemption does not exempt a vessel from the requirement to employ a state-licensed marine pilot while the vessel is in **Wrangell Narrows** or in the waters between **Chatham Strait and Sitka via Peril Strait**. [AS 08.62.180(b)]

A pilotage exemption may be revoked if the vessel is not operated in a manner that is appropriate to protect human life, property, and the marine environment, if the vessel violates the terms of the exemption, or if the vessel does not comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. [AS 08.62.180(b)]

The operator of a pleasure craft of foreign registry more than **125 feet overall length** but **less than 175 feet overall length** that has received a pilotage exemption shall employ a state-licensed marine pilot from initial entry into state compulsory pilotage waters to the first port of call. The marine pilot shall provide navigational and safety information relating to the pilotage region to the operator of the vessel. [AS 08.62.180(d)]

The operator of a pleasure craft of foreign registry more than **65 feet** overall length but not more than **125 feet overall length** that has received a pilotage exemption shall proceed upon its initial entry into state waters to the first port of call to receive navigational and safety information from the registered vessel agent employed by the operator of the vessel. [AS 08.62.180(c)]

The owner or operator of a pleasure craft of foreign registry that fails to employ a state-licensed marine pilot as required is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 for each violation. [AS 08.62.040(f)]

**Assistance:** Contact the Alaska Marine Pilot Coordinator at **(907)465-2548** phone, fax (907)465-2974 or email: james.mcdermott@alaska.gov



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Application for Exemption from Pilotage
Requirements for Pleasure Craft of Foreign Registry
of More Than 65 Feet Overall Length
but Less than 175 Feet Overall Length



1. Operator of Vessel:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Owner of Vessel (applicant):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Vessel Agent Information:

The following Vessel Agent has been employed:

Vessel Agent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Vessel Particulars (attach a copy of the vessel's certificate of registry and the vessel's insurance coverage):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Registry: \_\_\_\_\_

Official Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Length Overall (LOA): \_\_\_\_\_ Air Draft: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Vessel must be less than 175 feet overall to qualify for an exemption; AS 08.62.180(b).

International Gross Tonnage: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: If vessel is subject to AS 46.04, submit current certificate of financial responsibility.

5. Please indicate the dates and areas of Alaska pilotage waters you intend to visit:

_____	Southeast Alaska
_____	Yakutat/Disenchantment Bay
_____	Icy Bay
_____	Prince William Sound
_____	Seward/Resurrection Bay
_____	Cook Inlet
_____	Kodiak Island Group
_____	Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands
_____	Other _____

Will the vessel be operating for hire during any of the dates listed above? Where and when?

\_\_\_\_\_

**A vessel with passengers 'for hire' is disqualified from an exemption and the certificate must be surrendered to the Marine Pilot Coordinator prior to boarding such passengers. This does not prohibit a re-application for exemption from pilotage as a pleasure craft without passengers 'for hire.'**

**Applicants are reminded that Alaska Law requires vessels wishing to transit Wrangell Narrows, or from Chatham Strait to Sitka (via Peril Strait, Sergious Narrows, Kakul Narrows, Neva Strait, Olga Strait) to employ a state-licensed marine pilot regardless of any pilotage exemption received. AS 08.62.180(b).**

6. Names, positions, and addresses of vessel's captain and officers (**submit current licenses for each**):  
(On a pleasure craft greater than 200 gross tons, the master must hold a valid unlimited radar observer endorsement)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. List experience of vessel's captain and officers in Alaskan waters to be visited.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. List the names of those among the vessel's officers and crew who speak English:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. List the type and quantity of fuel(s) carried on board:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Indicate the following navigational tools aboard the vessel:

- AIS: \_\_\_ Class A MMSI Number \_\_\_\_\_  
           \_\_\_ Class B    Depth Sounder with depth alarm    RADAR: ARPA capable \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
- Magnetic Compass; Date of deviation table: \_\_\_\_\_
- VHF radio(s) capable of simultaneously monitoring Channels 13 and 16
- Coast Pilot 8; Dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Coast Pilot 9; Dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Current tide table(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Current tidal current table(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_
- Southeast Alaska Voluntary Waterway Guide*; Dated \_\_\_\_\_
- Tongass Narrows Users Guide*; Dated \_\_\_\_\_
- VTS regulations for Prince William Sound and Valdez; Dated \_\_\_\_\_
- Current nautical chart to scale for each area in the state to be transited, or electronic equivalent

11. Vessel contact information (list all electronic methods available for contacting the vessel including VHF frequencies, telephone numbers, fax numbers, satellite phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I understand that only pleasure craft may obtain an exemption from mandatory state pilotage requirements. A "pleasure craft" is "a vessel that does not carry passengers or freight for hire." "For hire" means "for consideration contributed as a condition of carriage on a vessel, whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent, or other person having an interest in the vessel". AS 08.62.180(e).**

**I have read and understand the conditions of operation and underway requirements while holding a current pilotage exemption.**

**I hereby certify that the vessel \_\_\_\_\_ will not be carrying passengers or freight for hire during the time periods for which an exemption had been sought in this application. I further certify that all of the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.**

**False statements on this application constitute unsworn falsification under AS 11.56.210, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to one year in jail. AS 12.55.035(b)(5), 12.55.135(a).**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representing



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**FPC**

OFFICE USE ONLY

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT**  
 For Foreign Pleasure Craft

Owner of vessel (applicant): \_\_\_\_\_

Name on credit card (payor): \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make payment by credit card for the following:  
*(check any that apply)*

- |  | Amount |
|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exemption Application Fee | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fine                      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____    | _____  |

Print Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type *(check one)*:     VISA                       MASTER CARD

Signature of  
 Credit Card holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Completion of this form is not proof of payment until the division processes the information contained herein. If any information on this form is illegible, the form will be rejected.**