

**PROCEDURE FOR
FOREIGN NATIONALS VISITING THE SCHENGEN AREA**

Prior to arrival in the Schengen area

1) Download the arrival declaration document shown on the website of the first port of call. This need not be a DESIGNATED ENTRY PORT (PPF).

2) One copy per vessel must be completed and sent to the email addresses shown on the document prior to arrival in the first port of call, preferably with 24 hours notice. The addresses will usually be those of the Frontier Police (PAF) and the Customs authorities situated in the nearest PPF, or, on occasion, the port authorities (not the marina personnel) in the first port of call.

3) Valid Covid 19 vaccination certificates for all crew members should be sent with the arrival declaration.

4) Despite rumours to the contrary, the “Q” flag need not be flown on entry into French waters, unless there are specific items on board to be declared.

5) A request that arrival and departure procedures be simplified has been made by the regional maritime authorities in Brittany to the national maritime authorities in Paris, so far without reply. Therefore, for the moment, the existing regulations governing passport control on arrival and departure remain in force. Thus, the instructions from the head of the Regional Customs and Frontier Police Authority for Brittany are quite clear.

Maritime authorities in Brittany will require a visit to the appropriate

PPF shown on the arrival declaration for passport checks. Should a boat call at a non-PPF port on arrival in France, then visitors must contact the relevant PPF authorities to arrange for a visit to the PPF for passport control.

If in doubt, visitors should clarify the situation prior to arrival with the marina personnel in the first port of call.

Cruising in the Schengen area

6) If the correct procedure is followed, non-EU visitors can then visit other ports (PPF or non-PPF) without further checks.

On leaving the Schengen area

7) Download the departure declaration document (similar to the arrival declaration document) shown on the website of the final port of call. This need not be a PPF.

8) One copy per vessel should be completed and sent to the PPF email addresses shown on the document. The departure declaration should show the same information as that of the arrival declaration. Should there be any change (crew changes etc.) this must be signaled to the relevant PPF authorities.

9) Despite there having been no change to the arrival declaration, a visit prior to departure to the relevant PPF to which the departure declaration has been sent will still be required. Should vessels be in a non-PPF port they should not leave the Schengen zone directly but proceed to the relevant PPF.

10) Should any boat leave the Schengen zone without completing and

submitting the necessary departure declaration, the holders of the passports shown in the arrival declaration will be deemed not to have left the Schengen area, and this could breach the 90 days in 180 days regulation concerning visas.

Please note that feedback from visiting yachts from the UK since January 1st 2021 is sometimes at odds with these instructions, and some leeway from the maritime authorities in certain areas, notably those in Normandy, has been experienced.

It is therefore highly advisable to check with the nearest PPF if you arrive or leave from a non-PPF.