



IMPORT REGIME

St. Lucia does not yet have a Ship Registry. It is Government policy that one will be established, and the legal machinery for doing so has been engaged.

The Ministry of Tourism has adopted an official definition of a yacht as follows: *A Yacht is a seaworthy craft of not less than 5 metres in length, powered by motor or sail, can be either private or charter, and is used primarily for pleasure.*

Import duty on yachts is presently 20%. Additionally, the following levies apply: environmental levy – 1%; service charge – 5%. The MIASL is seeking clarification that the service charge no longer applies. Foreigners who opt to reside in St. Lucia may apply for relief on the applicable duty (20%) through the Ministry of Tourism, with a justification for their request.

Yachtsmen who wish to store their craft here – for example winter cruisers – can apply to Customs for temporary importation. Applicable conditions are as follows:

1. That the vessel will not be (or offered to be) lent, sold, pledged hired, given away, exchanged or otherwise disposed of.
2. That it will be operated and only used by you, your immediate family or such person specifically approved in writing by you, and approved by the Comptroller of Customs.
3. That it will not be used for any industrial or commercial purposes (e.g. charters) whether for remuneration or not.
4. That the vessel will be re-exported from St. Lucia on or before (date specified by Customs).
5. That you understand that any breach of the foregoing conditions renders the vessel liable to forfeiture.

The importation of parts or supplies requires the services of a Customs broker whose fees are about EC\$200.00 (US\$1.00 = EC\$2.70)