



**CUSTOMS INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU  
NOTICE TO MASTERS OF VISITING YACHTS AND SMALL  
CRAFT**

**1. CUSTOMS PORTS**

The port of Lenakel on the island of Tanna. The port of Port Vila on the island of Efate the Port of Luganville on the island of Santo the Port of Sola on the island of Vanua Lava are the only legal ports of entry in the Republic of Vanuatu,

**2. ARRIVAL**

Masters of all yachts entering Vanuatu from a foreign port or place must first report to the Customs, Quarantine and Immigration authorities at either the port of Lenakel or Port Vila or Luganville or Sola. Immigration Officers will issue you with an entry permit for one month initially providing you live on board and do not take up paid employment. This also applies to every member of your crew on board at the time you arrive. Should you wish to extend your stay you should apply to the Immigration authorities. The maximum permitted stay is four (4) months. Anyone on board ceasing to be a crew member must obtain a return air ticket immediately. Responsibility for advising the Immigration authorities when a crew member wishes to leave, lies with the master who will be liable for crew members repatriation unless and until released from this obligation.

3. **ARMS AND AMMUNITIONS**

On arrival all arms and ammunition must be declared and surrendered to the Customs Officer for safe keeping. (Also refer to Section 4 on prohibition).

If Customs are satisfied that fire arms and ammunition can be safely secured under seal on board the importing vessel this may be allowed. In cases where no suitably secure sealing arrangements exist, the goods will be detained by Customs through out the vessel's stay in Vanuatu. At least 48 hours notice of intended departure from the final ports of clearance must be given in such cases.

4. **PROHIBITED GOODS**

The laws of Vanuatu prohibit of the importation of narcotics obscene publications and materials (books, magazines and video cassettes), and certain fire arms such as automatic weapons. These have severe penalties for any breach of these prohibitions.

5. **PORTS DUES**

All visiting small craft are liable for Port Dues of 7,000 vatu for a 30 days period or any part. After 30 days from the date of first arrival the vessel is liable for an additional charge of 100 vatu per day. Port Dues are to be paid at the Customs Office at the final port of departure (Lenakel, Vila, Luganville or Sola).

6. **MARINE CIRCULAR NO. 5 OF 1983**

An overhead electric power cable suspended between pylons exists between the eastern side of Iririki Island and Vila. No vessel whose overall height from waterline exceeds 25 meters shall attempt to pass under the cable except by passing close to the westward of the red buoy on the east (Vila side of the cable); where the maximum clearance is 28 meters. Contravention of the above shall be an offence and liable on conviction to a penalty plus costs of any damage incurred. A notice board bringing attention to the cable is displayed on either shoreline.

7. MARINE CIRCULAR NO. 6 OF 1983

All vessels in movement or at anchor in the Port of Port Vila shall carry the required lights for a vessel under way of riding light if at anchor between the hours of sunset and sunrise. Infractions of the above being reported will make the owner or master of the vessel liable to the penalties imposed under HARBOUR LIGHT ACT (CAP.2)SECTION6.

8. QUARANTINE

No live animals, reptiles, birds of any description, fresh meat, fruit or vegetables imported by yachts may not be taken ashore, additionally, officers of the Department of Agriculture may enforce some restriction on whether such goods will be permitted to remain on board after the arrival at a Customs port. No foreign garbage may be landed in Vanuatu without permission from the Agriculture Quarantine Service

9. TEMPORARY ADMISSION OF VISITING YACHTS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF IMPORT DUTY

Visiting yachts may enter and remain temporarily in Vanuatu without payment of duty provided that the vessel is the property of or has been hired by the importer and is to be imported temporarily for a period not exceeding six (6) months in any period of not more than two (2) years. Vessels which are imported temporarily into Vanuatu must not be used commercially.

Commercial use includes the chartering or hiring of the vessel or the use of the vessel for activities for which a charge is made (e.g. sailing tours). It is an offence to carry on such commercial activities without Business Licenses in such Conditions Customs duties will be liable on the vessel.

10. YACHTS LIABLE TO DUTY PAYMENT

A yacht will become liable to duty if :-

- a) It is disposed of in Vanuatu for financial consideration or not : or
- b) It is put to commercial use whilst in Vanuatu : or
- c) It remains in Vanuatu for a period or periods exceeding six (6) months in any period of two (2) years : or
- d) Imported by a resident of Vanuatu or on change of residence in such cases duty becomes liable on the date of arrival.

## 11. CUSTOMS ALLOWANCE

In the case of each crewmember:-

- i) All baggage consisting of wearing apparel, toilet requisites, articles of personal adornment and similar personal effects, being apparel, articles and effects possessed and used a broad by such passenger and which are not intended for gift, sale, or disposal to any other person;
- ii) 250 cigarettes, or 100 cigarillos, or 50 cigars, or 250 grams of tobacco, 2 liters of wine and 1.5 liters of spirit,  $\frac{1}{4}$  liters of toilet water and 10 centiliters of perfume, these allowance being granted per person and applicable only for persons aged over 15 years;
- iii) Any other item (other than prohibited goods) up to a value of 50.000 vatu per person aged over 15 years;

## 12. INTER-ISLAND VOYAGES

On completion of Customs quarantine and Immigration arrival formalities at the Port of entry, master of any vessel wishing to visit other islands in the group, may only be allowed to do so after first declaring their intended movements to the Customs authorities and obtaining formal approval.

## 13. SHIPMENT OF DUTY STORES

Duty free goods may be shipped on board any vessel which has cleared outwards. Or which is about to clear out ward for a foreign port or place. Quantities allowed to be shipped shall be commensurate with the length of the anticipated voyage. Full details of the duty-free schemes available may be obtained from the nearest Customs Office.

## 14. CUSTOMS OUTWARD CLEARANCE

All yachts leaving Vanuatu for a foreign port or place are required to obtain an outward clearance from the Customs and Immigration authorities at the final port of departure (i.e Lenakel, port Vila. Luganville or Sola). No yacht is allowed to call at any Island once it has been given an Outward International Clearance.

Vessels wishing to obtain an outward international clearance at locations other than Lenakel, Port Vila, Luganville or Sola should obtain permission for Customs and Immigration in advance and if such a request is granted may be required to pay for official attendance and travel.

15. DAYS AND TIMES TO OBTAIN CLEARANCE

The International and the Inter-Island Outward clearance will be granted only on the following days and times (Excluding Public Holidays and Week-Ends)

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

NORNING : 7.30 Hours 11.00 Hours

AFTERNOON : 13.30 Hours 16.00 Hours

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