

Customs and Immigration for U. S Yachts Returning from Bermuda

U. S. yachts returning to the United States from Bermuda and other foreign ports are required to report their arrival to U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) immediately upon return. They must do it in person unless they have pre-registered using the Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS, described below), in which case they may report in by telephone. Failure to report can result in civil penalties of \$5,000 or more, as well as additional penalties to the master who intentionally commits a violation.

A U. S. flagged vessel 30 feet or longer in length must obtain a user fee decal, which is available for \$27.50 from CBP. Information on the user fee decal is available at www.cbp.gov under the tab labeled "Travel." If the decal is not received by the time of the race, a copy of the receipt for the current year is sufficient.

Requirement to Report upon Arrival at a U. S. Port

The master reports the boat's arrival at the nearest Customs facility or such other place as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security may prescribe. An application to lawfully enter the United States must be made in person to a CBP officer at a U. S. port-of-entry when the port is open for business.

NOTE: Those familiar with more flexible clearance procedures used in the past should be aware that the number of designated CBP ports-of-entry is limited. See the CBP website,

<https://svrs.cbp.dhs.gov>.

SVRS Expedited Reporting

The CBP has implemented the Small Vessel Reporting System (SVRS) that allows eligible pleasure boat operators and crews to register themselves and their vessel in advance. CBP can still inspect vessels that arrive on SVRS. Details for the SVRS program may be found on the CBP website at <https://svrs.cbp.dhs.gov>. There is no charge for participation in SVRS.

Passengers eligible for the SVRS program include U. S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the U. S., as well as Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada who are nationals of a U.S. Visa Waiver Program Country.

Further Information.

Firearms must have the approval, in advance, from ATF, with ATF Form 6 aboard. Otherwise they will be detained by CBP.

Currency and negotiable monetary instruments must be declared if more than \$10,000 is on board or the money will be subject to seizure.

Foodstuffs (in particular fresh fruits and vegetables and meat products) must be declared so that they can be inspected if requested by CBP. Failure to declare could result in a \$1,000 fine.

Additional Information is available from the U. S. Customs and Border Protection website, **<https://svrs.cbp.dhs.gov>**.