

RYA BRIEFING: THE RECREATIONAL CRAFT SECTOR POST-BREXIT

This briefing outlines a number of policy areas which will impact on recreational boating and recreational boat users as the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

1. The ability of recreational craft to retain Union goods status, allowing continuous free navigation around the waters of the European Union
2. The border control regime between the United Kingdom and the European Union
3. The ability of UK citizens that have RYA qualifications to travel freely to and from the European Union for work, often seasonal, that requires those qualifications

Failing to address each of these issues would have significant downsides, including for recreational boaters and marine businesses in our area:

- Significant uncertainty would be generated around the Union goods status of the **c.60,000 boats currently kept outside the UK**, as well as boats kept in the UK which currently have Union goods status. UK boaters face the real risk of being liable for thousands of Pounds extra in customs costs, alongside facing additional disruption and red tape, every time they travel between UK and EU waters
- Placing in jeopardy the UK market for second-hand boats, which accounted for a significant proportion of the **£172m of exports** of boats from the UK to the EU in 2016, leading to lost jobs in UK communities with a currently strong marine sector and placing the future of marine businesses at significant risk
- Unfair or unreasonable border restrictions being placed on the boats of the almost **700,000 households in the UK who own recreational boats**, if and when they travel to the EU
- Onerous restrictions being placed on a significant proportion of the RYA's **24,979 qualified instructors** as they travel to and from the 249 RYA Recognised Training Centres throughout the EU, damaging UK exports in an area where we are currently an EU leader

RYA has developed a number of policy proposals to mitigate these issues, which can be achieved in accordance with the Government's stated 'red lines':

Recreational craft retaining Union goods status

1. Recreational craft that currently have the customs status of Union goods should retain that status (or equivalent proof of Union status) post-Brexit, regardless of whether they are kept in UK waters or the waters of EU member states.
2. If necessary, the UK Government should implement a system to enable UK boaters to readily prove to officials overseas that their craft have the custom status of Union goods (or are entitled to equivalent proof of Union status).
3. UK recreational craft that are not Union goods should continue to be able to visit the EU and should not be subject to an 18 month restriction on Temporary Admission procedures for relief on customs duties and VAT provided they do not change ownership.

Border controls on recreational craft travelling between the UK and EU

1. Any proposals that require recreational craft to obtain Government permission before entering or leaving the UK, or similar proposals for border control post-Brexit, would be unduly onerous, undermine navigational safety and place disproportionate restrictions on recreational boaters' freedom of navigation, and should be avoided.
2. Any proposals for visa controls must account for the nature of recreational boating tourism.
3. We have no objection to the principle of some form of advance voyage data reporting methodology being applied to all voyages to and from the UK by recreational craft (other than those between the UK and Ireland occurring under the CTA).
4. We are opposed to any proposal to introduce border controls for sea voyages between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland that are more onerous than border controls on the land border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
5. We support the creation of a system enabling UK nationals entering the Schengen Area to stay for periods in excess of 90 days in 180 (the current time limit for non-EU nationals).

Eligibility of UK citizens holding RYA qualifications to work in EU member states

1. We believe that UK citizens employed or self-employed in the UK holding RYA qualifications should continue to have the ability to visit EU member states on business (relevant to those qualifications) without having to obtain a visa.
2. UK citizens holding RYA qualifications should be able to obtain the necessary permissions to live and work in EU member states in seasonal and permanent occupations relevant to those qualifications with as little administrative burden and cost as possible.

If you would like to support RYA or request more information please contact:

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Latest economic research¹ indicates that the marine industry recently enjoyed its fifth consecutive year of growth. In 2015/16, direct revenues from marine industry trades grew by 1.6%, rising to £3.01bn, and directly contributing over £1.11bn of Gross Value Added to the UK economy, while supporting over 33,000 Full-Time Equivalent employees in 4,568 marine businesses. It is estimated that 3.5 million people in the UK take part in boating activity annually². In addition, the marine industry supports local ancilliary business, shops and restaurants.

¹ Key Performance Indicators for the Leisure, Superyacht & Small Commercial Marine Industry Jan17; source: British Marine.

² Arkenford watersports participation survey.