

Ship Registration (Indian Flag) Guide

Maritime, Shipping & Ports

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This guide explains what the tool produces, how to use the output, and what to watch for. The actual output (draft/report) is generated on the tool page.

Background

Explains ship registration under the Merchant Shipping Act — eligibility, ownership, documents, survey and the certificate of registry — for owned, imported or bareboat vessels. Use it to flag a vessel in India.

Purpose of this tool & output

Register a ship under the Indian flag

How the output is used

Use it to register a ship under the Indian flag — the registration under the Merchant Shipping Act before the vessel can trade as Indian.

Who receives it

The registration is with the Registrar of Indian Ships at the port of registry, under the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) and the Merchant Shipping Act.

How to submit / file it

File the ownership, builder, tonnage and eligibility documents with the Registrar; the ship is measured/surveyed and, on registration, receives the Certificate of Registry and an Indian flag.

Fees & charges

Registration and tonnage-measurement fees based on the vessel; the registry is periodically renewed/endorsed.

Who should vet it

The Registrar of Indian Ships and DG Shipping, which verify eligibility and tonnage before registration.

Important cautions

Ship registration, ownership eligibility, survey and mortgage and import requirements are detailed and change. Confirm the current requirements with DG Shipping and the Registrar and use experienced maritime legal advisers, especially for imported or financed or bareboat vessels.

Companion documents

- Maritime Approvals Roadmap
- DG Shipping Approvals & Certificates Guide
- RPSL (Seafarer Recruitment) Licence Guide
- Port & Maritime Board Permissions Guide
- IMO Convention Compliance Guide
- Customs & Cabotage Compliance Guide

This is AI-assisted guidance. Verify with a qualified professional before any binding decision. Fees, authorities and processes vary by state and change over time — confirm with your state authority.