

	<b>The Merchant Shipping (Port of Registry) Directive</b>  <b>To All Ship owners, Ship Managers and Ship Operators</b>	<b>Directive</b>	<b>03-2003</b>
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		<b>Revision</b>	<b>00</b>
		<b>Reference</b>	<b>Merchant Shipping Act, 1998</b>

The Director of the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 7, subsection (5) of The Merchant Shipping Act of 1998, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, makes the following Directive:

**Citation:**

1. This Directive may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Port of Registry) Directive 2003 and shall come into force on 01 December 2003

**Application**

2. This Directive applies
  - (a) to every Antigua and Barbuda ship, including Government owned ships, employed in commercial service, unless it is a ship which does not exceed 24 metres overall length
  - (b) to every ship registered under the law of a foreign country for the period of a bareboat charter under the Antigua and Barbuda flag

**Definitions**

3. “Antigua and Barbuda ship” means a ship which is registered or licensed under the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act, 1998

“registered ship” means a ship which is registered in the Register books of the Registrar in accordance with Section 14 of the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act, 1998

“bareboat chartered ship” means a ship leased without master and crew for a certain period of time

“port of registry” in relation to any ship means the port at which she is for the time being registered

“registrar” means the registrar of ships under the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act, 1998

## Requirement

4. (1) All ships registering under the Antigua and Barbuda flag after 01 December 2003 shall have the port of St. John's as their port of registry.
- (2) All existing Antigua and Barbuda registered ships shall continue to have the port of St. John's as their port of registry.
- (3) Ships which are presently registered as chartered bareboats under Chapter II of the Antigua and Barbuda Merchant Shipping Act 1998, and do not have the port of St. John's as their port of registry shall change the port of registry to St. John's, on the next renewal of the bareboat charter. This requirement is applicable to ships which renew registration as a chartered bareboat after 01 January 2004.

Signed by authority of the Director of the Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping