

With the U.K. having left the European Union on January 1st, 2021, the procedure for U.K. boats entering the Schengen area has drastically changed.

Over the last few months we have made representations to the regional maritime authorities in Brittany for clarification on the subject, and following the latest information that we have received from them, we have prepared a guide for those wishing to visit marinas in Brittany.

GUIDE FOR U.K. NATIONALS VISITING MARINAS IN BRITTANY

Prior to arrival in Brittany

1) Download the arrival declaration document shown on the website of the first marina to be visited. The marina should be in a DESIGNATED ENTRY PORT (PPF).

2) One copy per vessel must be completed and sent to the email addresses shown on the document prior to arrival in the first port of call, preferably with 24 hours notice. The addresses will usually be those of the Frontier Police (PAF) and the Customs authorities situated in the nearest PPF, or, on occasion, the port authorities (not the marina personnel) in the first port of call.

Please note that the maritime authorities in Brittany will require a visit to their offices in the PPF shown on the arrival declaration for passport checks. Should a boat call at a non-PPF port on arrival in Brittany, then visitors must contact the relevant PPF authorities to arrange for a visit to the designated PPF for passport control before continuing their voyage.

3) Valid Covid 19 vaccination certificates for all crew members should be sent with the arrival declaration. An information flyer setting out requirements will be found on marina websites.

4) Despite rumours to the contrary, the "Q" flag need not be flown on entry into French waters, unless there are items to be declared on arrival.

Following our representations, a request that the present arrival and departure procedures be simplified has been made by the regional maritime authorities in Brittany to the national maritime authorities in Paris, so far without reply. Therefore, for the moment, the existing regulations governing passport control on arrival and departure remain in force.

If in doubt, visitors should contact the marina personnel in the first port of call for advice.

Cruising in the Schengen area

5) If the correct arrival procedure is followed, non-EU visitors can then visit other ports (PPF or non-PPF) without further checks.

On leaving the Schengen area

6) Download the departure declaration document (similar to the arrival declaration document) shown on the website of the marina in the final port of call, which again should be a PPF.

7) One copy per vessel should be completed and sent to the PPF email addresses shown on the document. The departure declaration should show the same information as that of the arrival declaration. Should there be any change (crew changes etc.) this must be signaled to the relevant PPF authorities.

8) A visit to the relevant PPF to which the departure declaration has been sent prior to departure will still be required. Should for any reason a boat be in a non-PPF port prior to departure, it should not leave the Schengen area directly but proceed to the relevant PPF for a final passport control.

9) Should any boat leave the Schengen zone without completing and submitting the necessary departure declaration, the holders of the passports shown in the arrival declaration will be considered not to have left the Schengen area, and they may therefore be deemed to be in breach of the 90 days in 180 days regulation concerning visas.

Please note that the information contained in this guide was provided by the maritime authorities in Brittany. Feedback by visiting yachts from the UK since January 1st 2021 has sometimes been at odds with these instructions, and some leeway from the maritime authorities in certain areas, notably those in Normandy, has been experienced.

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