



Virgin Islands Shipping Registry

1st Floor Ritter House • Wickham's Cay II • P.O. Box 4751 • Road Town • Tortola

Virgin Islands VG1110

Tel: +1 284 468 9646

Website: www.bvimaritime.vg • Email: vishipping@bvimaritime.vg

Marine Circular 07/2021

MEASUREMENT & REGISTRATION OF VESSELS UNDER 24m (Except Fishing Vessels)

To: Notice to all Builders and Surveyors of vessels under 24m Length.
VISR Authorized Certifying Authorities, Recognized Organizations, Owners, Managers and Masters of all British Virgin Islands vessels under 24 metres.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In order to register a pleasure yacht of less than 24m in length¹, a Certificate of Measurement, comprising of the vessel's particulars and a simplified tonnage calculation² is to be submitted to the Registrar of Ships, along with the supporting proprietary registration information, i.e., Bill of Sale or Builder's Certificate. The Certificate of Measurement may be in the simplified Form as per **Annex 1** to this notice, or as per the more detailed Certificate of Survey (for Ships), or other equivalent means as agreed by the Registrar of Ships.
- 1.2 Guidance on the measurement and tonnage calculation is provided in **Annex 2** to this notice.
- 1.3 The Registrar of Ships will issue a Certificate of British Registry on receipt of a completed and accepted Certificate of Measurement. A simplified procedure, whereby a combined Certificate of Survey/Tonnage Measurement is issued is applicable to vessels of under 24 Meters, in Load Line Length.

2. PREPARATION OF CERTIFICATE OF MEASUREMENT

- 2.1 The Certificate of Measurement for pleasure yachts less than 24m in length shall be prepared by either of the following persons:
 - a) An *authorized measurer of Tonnage*³ for vessels under 24m.
 - b) A legal representative of the Owner (i.e., Attorney, Captain); in such cases the Certificate of Measurement will be subject to verification by a British Virgin Islands Shipping Registry (VISR) *surveyor of ships* for which a fee may be chargeable.
- 2.2 The Certificate of Measurement should include a simplified tonnage calculation.
- 2.3 In the case of 2.1 (b) above, the Certificate of Measurement in the agreed form should be submitted with a general arrangement plan and a photograph of the subject vessel for verification purposes.

¹ Length refers to load line length or Article 2(8) of the Load Line Convention.

² Simplified tonnage measurement in accordance with Part III of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations, 1997.

³ VISR recognized Certifying Authority, Classification Society or VISR *Surveyor of Ships*

MEASUREMENT & REGISTRATION OF PLEASURE YACHTS UNDER 24m (Continued)

- 2.4 In the case of series-built production vessels, access to the principal information in the form of a web link may be provided in lieu of the general arrangement plan or photograph.
- 2.5 Notwithstanding the above, the Registrar reserves the right to have the vessel inspected by a VISR Ship Surveyor in case of any doubt with respect to its particulars.

3. NATIONAL TONNAGE CERTIFICATES

- 3.1 Upon request, a VISR Ship Surveyor may produce a National Tonnage Certificate for vessels between 12 and less than 24m in length, for which a fee will be charged.

4. TENDERS TO, WAVE RUNNERS AND OTHER SMALL CRAFT

- 4.1 Tenders to, and wave runners on a yacht may be listed on a 'Record of Lifeboats, Tenders and Other Appurtenances', provided they are stowed onboard using the yacht's own lifting appliances. There are certain circumstances, however, where it may be desirable to register these vessels separately (for example, operation in US Waters).
- 4.2 The Registrar may at their sole discretion consider individual registration of a tender to, or a wave runner, on a British Virgin Islands yacht where this is necessary for operation. In such cases the registration document will clearly identify the parent vessel.
- 4.3 In the event a tender is registered independently of the mother vessel and is engaged in commercial activities it must be certified for commercial use, as it is no longer covered by the mother vessel's certification.



CERTIFIED EXTRACTS OF PARTICULARS SUPPLIED BY BUILDERS, OWNERS OR ENGINE MAKERS

PARTICULARS OF PROPELLING ENGINES (if any)

No. of sets of engines.....

No. of Shafts

Description of engines

Number of cylinders in each set

BHP

Serial No. (s)

When made.....

Name and addresses of.....

.....

Speed

Measurer

TONNAGE CALCULATION

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------|----------------|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Length | X | Breadth | X | Depth | | TONS |
| | X | | X | | X 0.16..... | = |

PLUS

Break, or Breaks, if any, extending from side to side above line of deck.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------|---|-------------|-----------------------|
| Mean Length | X | Mean Breadth | X | Mean Height | |
| | X | | X | | = X 0.35 = |

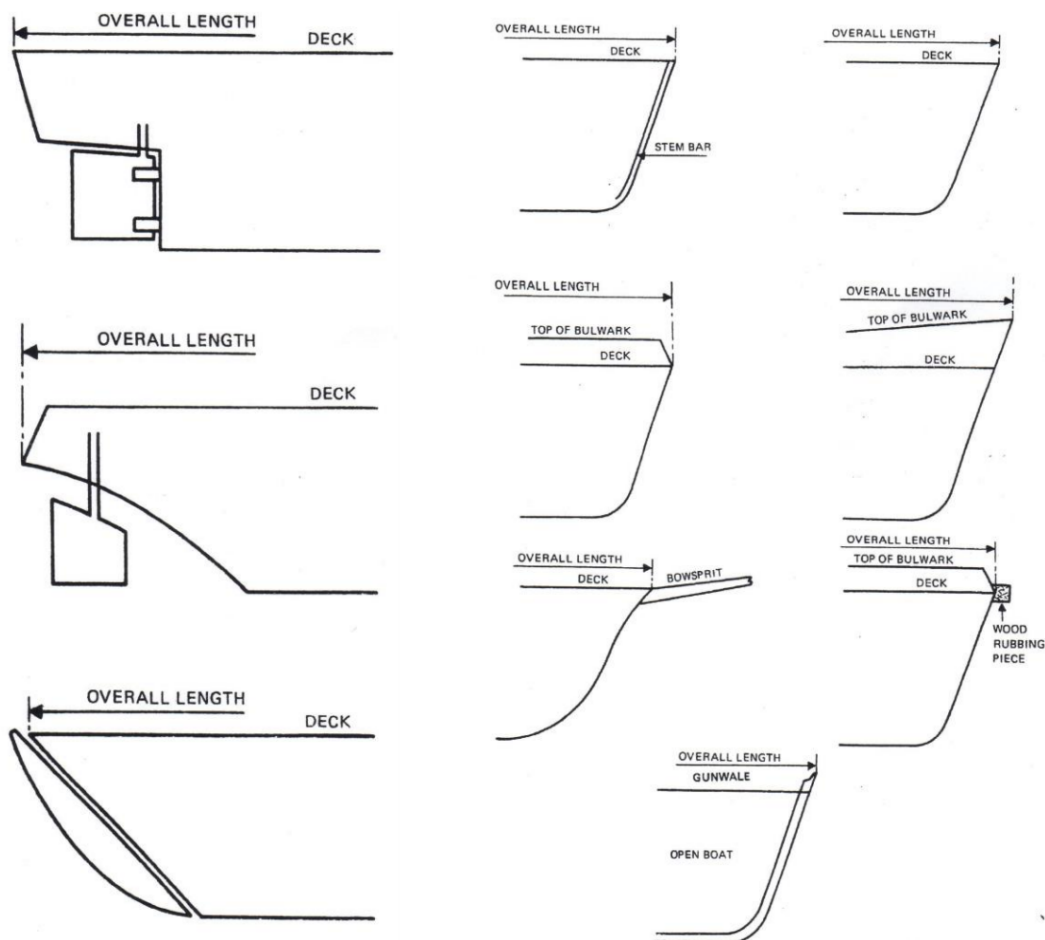
| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------|
| GROSS and NET TONNAGE | } | = |
| | | |

Annex 2

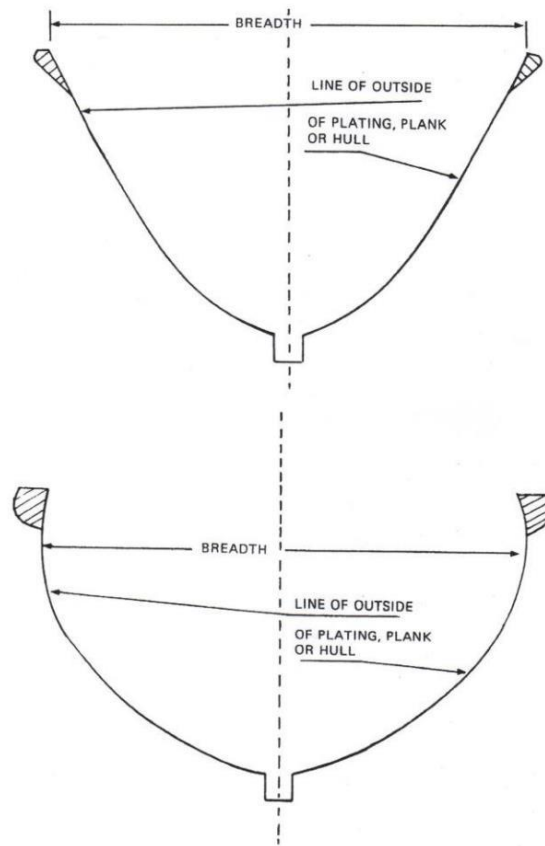
Guidance on Measurement and Tonnage Calculation

- The tonnage is the volume of the hull(s) **plus** the volume of any full width (side-to-side) raised tonnage decks ('breaks'), modified by a form factor.
- The tonnage figures are given in TONS and for yachts under 24m the Gross Tonnage (GT) and the Net Tonnage (NT) are the same.
- $GT/NT = \text{tonnage of hull(s)} + \text{tonnage of break(s)}$
- $\text{Tonnage of hull(s)} = \text{Length (overall)} \times \text{Breadth (extreme)} \times \text{Depth (at mid-point of Length)} \times 0.16$
- $\text{Tonnage of break(s)} = \text{Mean Length} \times \text{Mean Breadth} \times \text{Mean Height} \times 0.35$

Length Overall

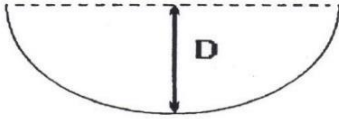


Breadth

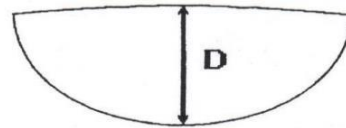


Depth

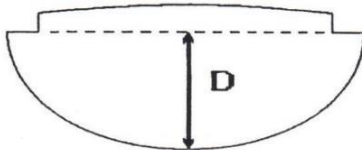
OPEN SHIP



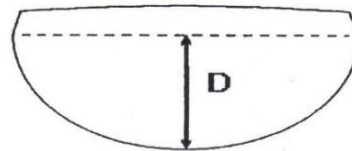
SHIP WITH DECK FROM GUNWALE TO GUNWALE



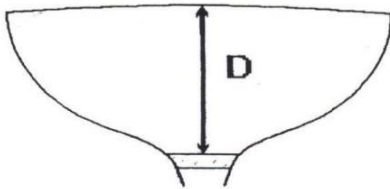
SHIP WITH INTERRUPTED DECK



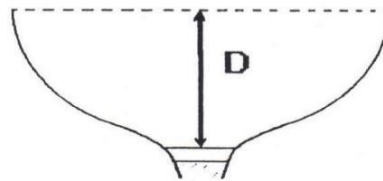
SHIP WITH SIDE TO SIDE BREAK. BREAK NOT INCLUDED



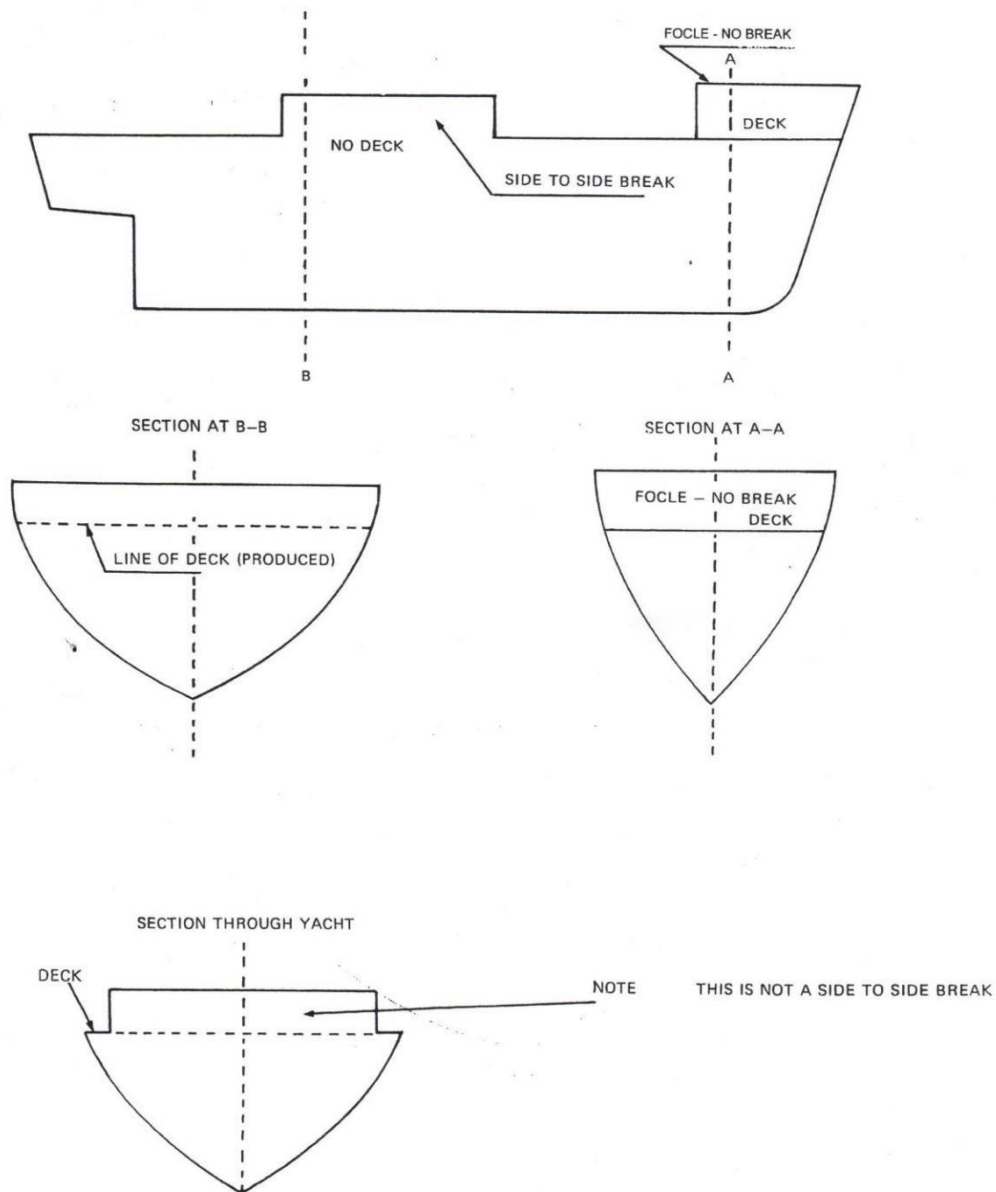
GRP SHIP WITH LOWER TERMINAL POINT AT FILLING OF KEEL



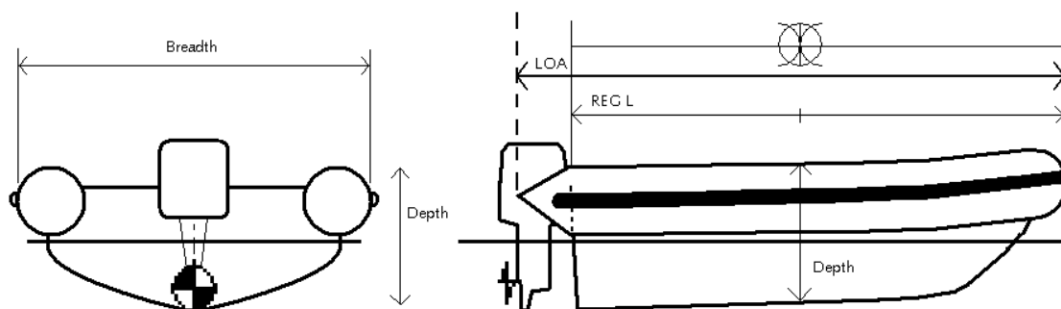
GRP SHIP WITH LOWER TERMINAL POINT WHERE KEEL TROUGH IS 100MM IN BREADTH



'Breaks'

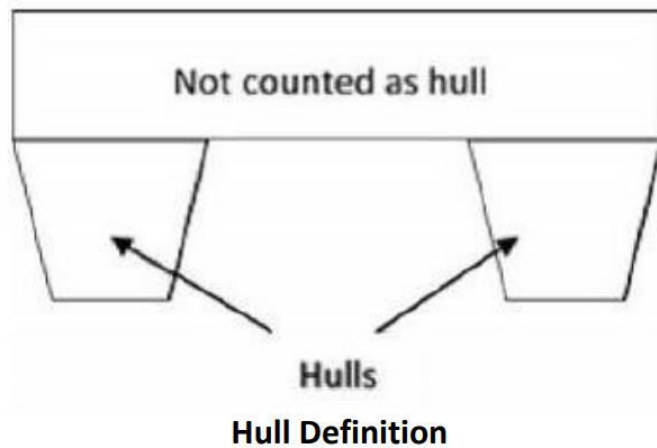


RIBs

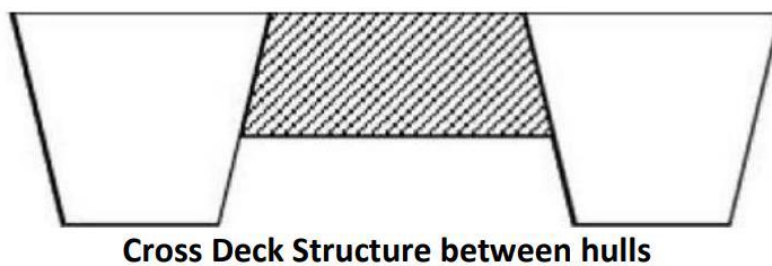


Multihulls

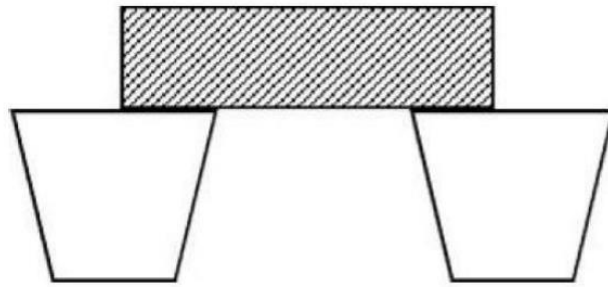
In the case of a multihull vessel the tonnage of each hull shall be measured separately and the sum of both shall be used in calculating the tonnage.



A cross deck structure between the hulls below the weather deck does not constitute a 'break' and should not be included in the calculations.

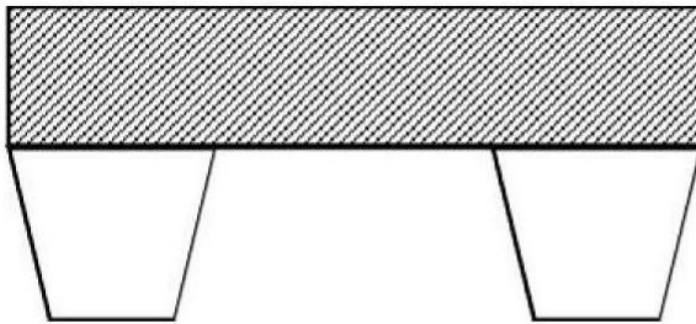


A deck house that does not extend from side to side is not considered to be a 'Break'.



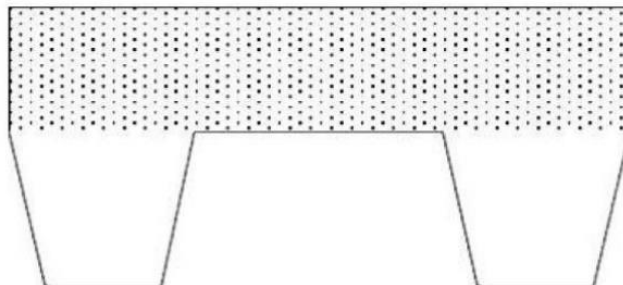
Deckhouse not extending side to side

A deck house or structure that does extend from side to side but has a deck underneath the structure is not a 'Break'.



Side to Side Step with deck underneath.

A side-to-side upward step where the openings into each hull are open and not closed off by a deck between, are considered to be a 'Break'



Side to Side Upward Step Constituting a Break.