



**TR 2015 BULLETIN #6
June 3, 2015**

CUSTOMS/IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES

Please note this is provided as summary information only, for more detailed information please follow the links below or contact your country authorities.

1. VISA INFORMATION

Transatlantic Race 2015 participants may need to apply for a visa. However, travelers from many countries (see table below) may qualify for the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). They will not need a Visa, but can use the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

Once they receive the ESTA, they will need a letter from the NYYC stating that they are participating in the TR 2015 when they are departing the US. This will be enough for the customs agent to let them in the US without a return ticket.

Here are the guidelines for qualifying for the VWP:

- They have received an authorization to travel under the VWP through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA)
- They present the appropriate type of passport valid for six months past their expected stay in the United States (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions). This is a requirement in addition to other passport requirements for all categories of passports -- regular, diplomatic, and official - when the traveler is seeking to enter the United States for business or tourist purposes, for a maximum of 90 days;
- The purpose of their stay in the United States is 90 days or less for tourism or business (Visitor (B) visa) purpose of travel. (If in doubt, travelers should check with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate to verify that what they plan to do is considered tourism or business.) Transit through the United States is generally permitted.

Important Notice: Foreign media representatives planning to engage in that vocation in the United States are not eligible for VWP travel, as the purpose of their stay does not qualify as “business”. These professionals must obtain a nonimmigrant media (I) visa. Note also that travelers planning to work or study cannot travel on VWP, and they must obtain the appropriate visa to travel to the United States Learn More.

- If arriving by air or sea, they are traveling on an approved carrier (See the approved carriers list) and have a return trip ticket to any foreign destination (State Department said this would be OK for race participants);



- They can demonstrate the intent to stay 90 days or less in the United States and demonstrate sufficient funds to support themselves while in the United States. Learn more on the CBP website.

2. **Countries in the program:**

Andorra	Czech	Greece	Latvia	Netherlands	Slovenia
Australia	Denmark	Hungary	Liechtenstein	New Zealand	South Korea
Austria	Estonia	Iceland	Lithuania	Norway	Spain
Belgium	Finland	Ireland	Luxembourg	Portugal	Sweden
Brunei	France	Italy	Malta	San Marino	Switzerland
Chile	Germany	Japan	Monaco	Singapore	Taiwan
				Slovakia	United Kingdom

WEBSITES

Visa information - http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1262.html

Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) - <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/esta>

U.S. Department of State website - <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/visit.html>

Please advise if you need a letter for Customs from New York Yacht Club regarding your participation in the TR 2015 by emailing sailing@nyyc.org.

3. **US Customs Departure Information**

If you are NOT a citizen of the US or Canada and received an I-94 when you cleared customs upon your arrival in the US, you MUST return the I-94 form to the Customs Office prior to your departure.

A. The Customs Office is located in the US Post Office at the address below:

320 Thames Street, #1
Newport, Rhode Island 02840

B. Please call the Customs Office prior to dropping off the form as a Customs agent MUST be present. Call the Newport office phone number at:

(401) 847-2744

If the line results in a “fax tone”, please call the main Providence office and they will walk you through the process of dropping off the I-94. The Providence Customs Office number is:

(401) 941-6326

4. Yachts Arriving in the UK at the End of the TR 2015

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) website offers good advice for yachts arriving from non EU countries (link below). This applies to cruising and racing yachts. The two links below will tell you all you need to know and we strongly suggest you download HMRC Notice No 8, available from the second link below. This explains in full the processes you must complete.

<http://www.rya.org.uk/infoadvice/boatingabroad/pages/customsformalities.aspx>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-8-sailing-your-pleasure-craft-to-and-from-the-uk/notice-8-sailing-your-pleasure-craft-to-and-from-the-uk>

For non EU (including Channel Islands) vessels arriving in the Solent having competed in the TR 2015 and Coastal Race (Note: if vessels choose to stop off at another location in the UK the same process will apply):

- You must fly the Q flag as soon as you enter UK waters (12 mile territorial limit). Do not take down the flag until you have finished reporting to the customs authorities.
- Call the National Yacht line 0845 723 1110 (as there will be people on board who need immigration clearance).
- Complete form C1331 (attached) and send to UK Border Force. The address is on the form.
- Except for contacting the customs authorities as above, you must not land goods or persons or transfer them to another vessel until a customs official says you may do so.

On arrival in the Solent some large yachts may require pilotage. Please visit this website to check the specifics:

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/portsmouth/port-information/pilotage>

To ensure you comply with Southampton port bylaws when sailing in their waters, please check the web site listed below. The chartlet below shows the extent of these waters. The coastal race will enter the Solent from the West.

http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/admin/content/files/PDF_Downloads/pilotage%20directions1.PDF

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