

# Bahamas Paperwork & Rules

## *Before Leaving....*

### Valid Passport

From December 31, 2006 passports will be required for those travelling between the US and the Bahamas, ie for everyone on board your Boat.

### Pet Permits

Pets are allowed but you must have permit in advance and have it onboard. For application call 242-325-7413 , Fax 242-325-3960, or write Director Dept of Agriculture, PO Box N-3704, Nassau Bahamas. The fee is \$10 payable by Postal Money Order (\$15 for faxed permit). We suggest you allow for a 30 day lead time. In addition, be sure to have on board a current Veterinary Health Certificate and rabies vaccination certificate for your pet.

### US Customs Decal

Get your **US Customs Decal** .. it is required for boats over 30 feet and you will need a **US Customs Decal** to re-enter the U.S. The cost is \$27.50 and it can be obtained online at <https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov>. Inquiries can be directed to DTOPS Fee Help Desk: 317-298-1245 M-F 8-4 EST.

### Local Boater Option (LBO) Card

When returning to Florida from the Bahamas with an **LBO Card** all that you have to do is call them on the phone and report in .. THAT IS IT !! .. once the 'paper' work is done they will provide you a '**Lifetime Card**' with a number on it that is assigned to you only. See below for further detail.

## *Upon Entering The Bahamas....*

### Hoist Yellow Quarantine Flag

- Upon entry into Bahamian waters, hoist the yellow quarantine flag near your port of entry.
- After docking, report to a Customs and Immigration Officer as soon as possible. Everyone **except** the Captain stays on board until all paperwork is completed. No others are allowed off the boat until the vessel is cleared by Customs and Immigration.
- The Captain should have the following information ready for Customs officials:
  - Ship's documentations/registration,
  - Passports for all persons on board,
  - Pet import permit and firearms information (do not carry weapon in),
- Treat officials with courtesy and respect, follow their instructions and be neatly dressed.
- After receiving your cruising permit, take down your Q Flag and hoist your Bahamian courtesy flag.

### Fees

A pleasure vessel arriving in the Bahamas shall be subject to a fee of \$300.00 for boats over 35" This covers the initial-entry cruising permit (plus a return visit within 90 days) , a 3 month fishing permit and any attendant fees payable to the Customs Officer, including any overtime or travel fees. It also includes the \$15 departure tax should you need to fly home (bring a copy of your cruising permit to the airport). Each additional person above four will be charged a \$15 departure tax. Ask for a receipt, get the name of the officer and call Customs 242-326-4401 or 325-6551 if you have any problems.



## **Local Boater Option – LBO**

.. when returning to Florida from the Bahamas with an **LBO Card** all that you have to do is call them and report in .. THAT IS IT !! ..

.. to obtain an LBO you have to register with the **Department of Homeland Security – Bureau of Customs and Border Protection** .. once the 'paper' work is done they will provide you a '**Lifetime Card**' with a number on it that is assigned to you only .. you must apply in person and the following must be provided ..

### **Passport, US Customs Decal Number, and your Boat Documentation or Registration Information**

.. to get your '**Lifetime Card**' in Fort Myers make an appointment with Howard Noble .. his Phone Number in Fort Myers is 239-561-6205 .. his Office in Fort Myers is located at the **Southwest Regional Airport** .. you can park in the **Short Term Parking Area – Level Two** .. stay to the far right facing the Terminal .. take the Steps down to the Street Level and walk to the Main Terminal .. go to the right .. follow the US Customs signs and look for a Phone on the wall at their Office .. the only option on the Phone is to contact Howard's Office .. he will assist you thru the 'paper work' .. once you have your **Lifetime Card** when you re-enter the US all you have to do is call them with your Number.

### **If You Return to the US without an LBO Card...**

Call US Customs at 800-432-1216 and fly Yellow Quarantine Flag. Take down the officers name and/or badge # and clearance number if they give it to you and log this in your ship's log with time and date. In case they mess up on their end, and try to hold you accountable later for "sneaking" in, this is your legal proof that you met your obligations.

Updated on February 17, 2009