

Vessel & Passage Information

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VESSEL NAME

MAKE / MODEL / YEAR

OWNER / AGENT

CAPTAIN

DEPARTURE

DESTINATION

PLANNED DEPARTURE DATE

PRIMARY ROUTE / PASSAGE

LOA

DRAFT

AIR DRAFT

This checklist expands Atlantic Yacht Delivery's original seaworthiness preparation list into a practical owner/captain pre-departure review. Not every item applies to every vessel. Use vessel length, propulsion, route, operating area and current regulations to determine applicable requirements.

1. Voyage & Documentation

- ☐ Confirm vessel registration/documentation, insurance information and emergency/towing contacts are aboard and current.
- ☐ Record vessel draft and air draft; confirm planned route, bridge clearances, inlet constraints and any vessel-specific limitations.
- ☐ Review current marine weather, tides/currents, Local Notices to Mariners and expected daylight for the planned leg.
- ☐ Prepare a float plan or passage plan and leave appropriate voyage details with a responsible shore contact.

2. Safety & Emergency Equipment

- ☐ Inspect life jackets/PFDs and throwable devices; confirm the appropriate type, quantity, size and condition for persons aboard.
- ☐ Inspect fire extinguishers and any fixed fire-suppression system; verify required service/status indicators are satisfactory.
- ☐ Test carbon-monoxide alarms and smoke alarms where fitted.
- ☐ Check visual distress signals and associated gear; confirm serviceability and expiration dates where applicable.
- ☐ Verify sound-producing devices, emergency lighting, flashlights and first-aid supplies are aboard and operational.
- ☐ If carried or appropriate to the route, verify liferaft, EPIRB/PLB and other emergency-location equipment are secured, registered and current.

3. Communications & Navigation Electronics

- ☐ Test fixed VHF radio and antennas. Verify DSC/MMSI information is correct and GPS position is available to the radio where equipped.
- ☐ Test handheld VHF and confirm spare/charged batteries or charging capability.
- ☐ Confirm magnetic compass, chartplotter/GPS and depth sounder/fathometer are operational; carry appropriate chart information and a backup means of navigation.
- ☐ Test radar, AIS, autopilot, spotlight and other navigation electronics if fitted and expected to be used.
- ☐ Confirm navigation lights and day shapes are serviceable and appropriate for the vessel/operation.

4. Fuel, Engines & Generators

- ☐ Confirm sufficient usable fuel for the planned leg with an appropriate reserve; verify tank gauges, transfer/crossover valves and fuel shutoffs as applicable.
- ☐ Inspect fuel lines, fittings and tanks for leaks/odor; drain/check fuel-water separators and carry spare primary/secondary fuel filters as appropriate.

- ☐ Check engine and gearbox oil, coolant and hydraulic-fluid levels; inspect belts, hoses, clamps and obvious leaks.
- ☐ Start and warm main engines; verify oil pressure, charging voltage, cooling-water discharge, temperatures and alarm functions.
- ☐ Start and load-test generator(s) if they will be needed underway; verify fluids, cooling-water flow and output.

5. Cooling, Seacocks, Bilges & Plumbing

- ☐ Inspect seacocks/sea valves for accessibility and operation; inspect/clean sea strainers and verify hose clamps are secure.
- ☐ Test bilge pumps manually and automatically; test float switches and high-water alarms. Bilges should be reasonably clean and dry before departure.
- ☐ Inspect shaft logs/packing glands or shaft seals for leakage within normal limits; carry suitable emergency plugs/soft plugs where practical.
- ☐ Check freshwater, sanitation and critical pumps/hoses for leaks or conditions that could create flooding or disable essential systems.

6. Steering, Controls & Running Gear

- ☐ Inspect hydraulic steering lines, rams and reservoirs for leaks; verify fluid level and turn steering hard-over in both directions for smooth operation.
- ☐ Test throttle/shift controls at each station; verify neutral-start protection and engine-control/alarm functions as applicable.
- ☐ Operate trim tabs and stabilizing/control systems if fitted; inspect fluid levels and visible components.
- ☐ If hauled, inspect shafts, props, rudders, struts, outdrives and other underwater running gear; confirm drain/bilge plugs as applicable.

7. Electrical & Battery Systems

- ☐ Confirm batteries are secure and terminals/cables are clean and tight; check electrolyte levels on serviceable flooded batteries.
- ☐ Verify battery switches, charging systems, alternators and battery chargers are functioning normally.
- ☐ Check shore-power cords/inlets for damage and confirm shore power is properly disconnected and secured before departure.
- ☐ Carry essential fuses/breakers/spares and confirm critical DC/AC equipment needed for the passage is operational.

8. Deck Gear, Ground Tackle & Exterior

- ☐ Inspect primary anchor, rode/chain, shackles, windlass/capstan, rollers and securing arrangements; confirm a backup anchoring plan/equipment where practical.
- ☐ Confirm adequate serviceable dock lines and fenders are aboard and positioned for expected stops.
- ☐ Inspect railings, lifelines, cleats, ladders, hatches, doors and exterior hardware for security and safe operation.
- ☐ Check windshield/glass/eisenglass for visibility; confirm wipers/defogging equipment are serviceable where fitted.
- ☐ Secure tender/dinghy, deck furniture, loose gear and other items that could shift, chafe or become hazards underway.

9. Hull & Watertight Integrity

- ☐ Inspect portholes, deck hatches, doors and seals for proper operation and watertight integrity.
- ☐ Inspect accessible hull/interior spaces for evidence of active leaks, unusual water intrusion or structural damage.
- ☐ If hauled, inspect hull for cracks, holes, damage or excessive fouling and inspect exterior-mounted transducers/devices and seals.

10. Spares, Tools & Final Dockside Check

- ☐ Carry vessel-appropriate tools and essential spares such as fuel filters, belts, impellers, hose clamps, fluids, fuses and bulbs/lamps where applicable.
- ☐ Confirm adequate potable water, provisions, medications and personal safety gear for the planned passage and crew.
- ☐ Conduct a final engine-room/bilge walk-through immediately before departure: no new leaks, unusual smells, loose gear or abnormal alarms.
- ☐ Confirm dock lines, shore power, water hose and boarding gear are clear before getting underway; brief crew on emergency procedures and assigned duties.

Passage Planning & Follow-Up

EMERGENCY SHORE CONTACT

PHONE

TOWING ASSISTANCE PROVIDER

MEMBERSHIP / POLICY NUMBER

USABLE FUEL CAPACITY

PLANNED FUEL RESERVE

PLANNED CRUISE RPM / SPEED

PLANNED FUEL STOP(S)

ALTERNATE / SAFE HARBOR

WEATHER WINDOW / GO-NO-GO NOTES

Route Constraints / Bridge, Inlet or Draft Considerations

Notes / Deficiencies / Follow-Up

OWNER / AGENT INITIALS

CAPTAIN INITIALS

REVIEW DATE

Reference resources: U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety, USCG NAVCEN, NOAA/NWS. Verify current requirements before departure.