**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

# THE PLEASURE CRAFT (ARRIVAL AND REPORT) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2026

**2026 No. 707**

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

## 2. Declaration

2.1 Dan Tomlinson MP, Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

2.2 Joanne Cheetham, Deputy Director for Customs Compliance, Audit and Law at HMRC confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

## 3. Contact

3.1 Jayne Wood at HMRC can be contacted by email at the following address with any queries regarding the instrument: enquiries.excisecustomslawteam@HMRC.gov.uk. Alternatively, the department can be contacted by telephone: 03000 510779.

## Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

## 4. Overview of the Instrument

***What does the legislation do?***

4.1 This legislation amends the 1996 Pleasure Craft (Arrival and Report) Regulations 1996 (The Pleasure Craft Regulations) which detail the requirements for reporting the arrival of pleasure craft in the UK. A pleasure craft is a vessel which is being used for private recreational purposes when it arrives in the UK.

4.2 The amendments will add clear provision for electronic reporting and remove outdated requirements. Electronic reporting for pleasure craft is already in force under Commissioners' Directions and this amendment will align those Directions and The Pleasure Craft Regulations to ensure they operate effectively together.

4.3 The regulations apply to pleasure craft which arrive in the United Kingdom from a place outside the United Kingdom other than the Isle of Man. Reports are not required for journeys between Great Britain (GB) and Northern Ireland (NI).

***Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?***

4.4 The extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction(s) which the instrument forms part of the law of) is the United Kingdom.

4.5 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is the United Kingdom.

## 5. Policy Context

***What is being done and why?***

5.1 The Pleasure Craft Regulations currently refer to outdated methods for reporting the arrival of pleasure craft arriving into the UK. The majority of reports are now made electronically. Therefore, provision for electronic reporting will be included in the Pleasure Craft Regulations and outdated provisions referring to reporting by posting a form into a Customs and Excise post box will be removed. This amendment clarifies that such reporting is within the scope of the Pleasure Craft Regulations. The Pleasure Craft Regulations will then align with The Commissioners' Directions made under section 35(1) and section 64(2)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 which already refer to reporting by electronic means.

***What was the previous policy, how is this different?***

5.2 The current regulations require reports of pleasure craft to be submitted via a 'Customs and Excise' postbox where one is provided, but such postboxes no longer exist. In the absence of such a postbox the Pleasure Craft Regulations require reports to be delivered to HMRC Officers or delivered to the Customs and Excise office for the port of arrival. In practice all reports are now delivered electronically or by hard copy, via the postal service. The Pleasure Craft Regulations need to be updated to reflect this.

## 6. Legislative and Legal Context

***How has the law changed?***

6.1 Electronic reporting is not specifically referred to in the Pleasure Craft Regulations. Amending the Regulations to include reference to electronic reporting and remove outdated reporting methods will align with The Commissioners' Directions under section 35(1) and section 64(2)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and ensure that there is consistency in the law governing the reporting procedure.

***Why was this approach taken to change the law?***

6.2 This approach to changing the law is being taken as this is a minor amendment to the legislation to include provision for electronic reporting to reflect modern practice.

## 7. Consultation

***Summary of consultation outcome and methodology***

7.1 This is a minor amendment that seeks to align The Pleasure Craft Regulations with the current reporting process. Reporting electronically is already widely used and there is no practical impact on users. In light of this, a consultation was not considered necessary.

## 8. Applicable Guidance

8.1 Guidance on making a report electronically is already available on the gov.uk website[1].

[1] Pleasure Craft Report Guidance: www.gov.uk/guidance/submit-a-pleasure-craft-report

## Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

### 9. Impact Assessment

9.1 A full Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because there will be no additional economic impact on users of the electronic reporting system or who report by post. There is no cost to reporting via the electronic system.

***Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies***

9.2 There is no impact on businesses, charities or voluntary bodies because reporting as a pleasure craft is required when it is a private vessel that is being used for private recreational purposes. Businesses and charities that are sailing specifically for training purposes are required to report the arrival, however there is no cost to them should they wish to use the electronic service.

9.3 The legislation does not impact small or micro businesses.

9.4 There is no impact on the public sector because electronic reporting remains in place and continues to be used as the preferred method of reporting.

### 10. Monitoring and review

***What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?***

10.1 A review of this legislation is not required as there is no significant impact on businesses or individuals.

10.2 The instrument does not include a statutory review clause and, in line with the requirements of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act Dan Tomlinson has made the following statement "A statutory review clause is not included in the instrument because the instrument relates to a tax or duty, and therefore meets the requirements of the exemption set out in section 28(3)(a) of the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015".

## Part Three: Statements and Matters of Particular Interest to Parliament

### 11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 None.

### 12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 As the instrument is subject to negative procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

### 13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument is not made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 or the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 ("relevant European Union Acts").