



A new closed-port permit system has been introduced for foreign pleasure boats that are cruising in Japan for sightseeing purposes.

Summary: Under the new system, a foreign pleasure boat can receive an open-ended blanket permit that allows it to go to all closed ports and that has no expiration date.

Main Points

- When submitting the application, there is no need to prepare a detailed list of ports of call.
- With the new blanket permit, a foreign pleasure boat is allowed to visit all closed ports in Japan, with the exception of some specified fishing ports and islands pursuant to relevant laws, regulations, or ordinances.
- The blanket permit has no expiration date.
- An application for a blanket permit should be submitted to the District Transport Bureau that has jurisdiction over the region in which the applicant's first closed port is located.

Application

To apply for a blanket closed-port permit, the following items must be submitted
(copies are acceptable)

- Application for Special Permission to Call at Closed Port (2 copies). This application form can be found at <http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/specialpermission.html>.
- Boat registration document.
- Data page of passport of the captain and each crew member.
- Protection & Indemnity Insurance (PI), only for boats over 100 tons.
- Proof of regular moorage location, only for boats owned by foreigners who are long-time residents of Japan.

Notes

- If there are any changes in the information submitted in the permit application (e.g., ship nationality, name of ship owner or operator, gross tonnage), then a new application must be submitted.
- If any of the above documents are updated or renewed, a copy of the new document must be submitted to the District Transport Bureau that issued the closed-port permit, and that includes submitting a copy of the passport data page for each individual whenever there is an addition or change to the members of the crew.

For more information, contact:

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