



## MYBA and THE FRENCH CUSTOMS

We won't tell you anything new by saying that the majority, if not all, the yachts (in the 25-80 metre range) on the French Riviera, in one way or another, are represented by MYBA via companies from all over the world.

This fact however highlights again the importance of MYBA's involvement and continuing work on all fronts and in particular on matters relating to Customs officers boarding yachts for inspection.

MYBA has been in contact with the Customs Offices in Nice (which, by the way, have obtained the prestigious referential status) to establish a regular dialogue and show the Yachting Industry's intentions and avoid misunderstandings between captains/owners and Custom officers during boardings.

But here is good news you are probably not aware of and that the ball is now rolling and the Customs Offices have set up an official system with a view to harmonising the Customs Officers practices throughout the coast. (i.e. uniform application across the board of the legislation).

The less good news is that this is only the early phase of implementation and things won't be quite ready for the 2010 season.

In the meantime though, by being proactive and showing one can be cooperative, all future Customs checks could be shorter, more pleasant and incident free.

The advice we then would recommend all captains and yacht owners to follow is to

Make sure all paperwork is available onboard at all times

which means that one should be able to prove that the yacht:

- is commercially registered ('COMMERCIAL' is to be mentioned on the official document)
- is employing professional crew (employment contracts)
- is on a charter which has been paid for (preferably original charter contract + bank statement showing payment)
- has Customs Office validated declarations of cash, artwork, weapons, medicine cabinet contents
- has paid all applicable taxes (receipts)

Compliance requirements for private yachts are different so, if you have the slightest doubt about what you should be doing or not, contact the Customs Offices and ask.