

### Safety Tips:

- Know your vessel's load and do not exceed it.
- Safe boating requires good vision and too much alcohol can seriously restrict vision.
- Don't Drink and Boat
- Check the weather forecast before leaving to sea
- File a sailing plan and leave a copy with a responsible person on shore including the Belize Port Authority
- No wake zone is an area designated by the Harbour Master for Captains/Masters to navigate with extreme caution at a slow speed not to create wake (waves) to cause or be likely to cause damage to lives or property.

### Common Fines/Penalties:

- Not having a valid Seaworthiness Certificate on board vessel carries a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00.
- Operating a vessel without a valid Master's License carries a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00.
- Overloading a vessel carries a fine of \$1,000.00.
- Sending or attempting to send unseaworthy vessel on a voyage carries a fine not exceeding \$1,000.00.
- Failure to report accident/collision carries a fine of \$15,000.00.

## BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY:

### ⚓ Belize Port Authority's Main Headquarters

Location: Mile 4, George Price Highway, Belize City

Tel: (501)-222-5666/5665/5662

Email: [bzportauth@btl.net](mailto:bzportauth@btl.net)

Website: [www.portauthority.bz](http://www.portauthority.bz)

### ⚓ National Maritime Communication Center:

Focal point of communication as it relates to maritime security and safety issues.

**Emergency Hotline: 966**  
**(store this number on speed dial)**

### ⚓ Out-District Branches:

**San Pedro Branch:** Tel: (501)-610-4977

**Big Creek Branch:** Tel: (501)-503-2042  
Fax: (501)-523-2042

**Placencia Branch:** Tel: (501)-601-9414/  
(501)-615-6314

**Punta Gorda Branch:** Tel: (501)-702-0221

***Maritime Service, Security & Efficiency!***



# BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY *About Us*





## Vision:

To develop a cadre of competent officers to carry out the legal mandate of the organisation; To be proactive in identifying and incorporating appropriate technology. *To respond in a timely and appropriate fashion to changes in the national, regional and international maritime industry to aid economic development and enforcement.*

7. Coordinate joint Maritime Law Enforcement patrols with various law enforcement agencies.
8. Enforce all BPA's Laws and Regulations in accordance with BPA's Acts and international Conventions

## Requirements for Registration:

- a) Local Built Vessels: Boat Builder's Certificate/Certificate of Ownership, Receipt (Bill of Sale) motor vessel (s) and engine(s), Copy of Owner's identification card and utility bill.
- b) Foreign Built Vessels: Certificate of Documentation/Registry/Title, Receipt (Bill of Sale) motor vessel (s) and engine(s), Custom Declaration for vessel(s) and engine (s). Engine serial number to be noted on the declaration.

## Requirements for Licensing:

1. BPA registration certificate
2. Proper navigational lights
3. Anchor and anchor lines
4. Approved lifejackets
5. Fire extinguishers
6. First Aid Kit
7. Distress Kit
8. VHF Radio

Note: All vessel whether private, commercial or cargo **must** be registered and licensed with the Belize Port Authority. **See Requirements For Registering and Licensing of Vessels Brochure.**

## What you need to Know:

**Change of Ownership:** A form must be filled out and signed by both parties involved with the change at the office.

**Change of Vessel Name:** Vessel owners must fill out a form at the office to acknowledge such change if the vessel has been registered.

All markings on a vessel except for name and home port should be of white letters against a black background or vice versa.

## About us:

The Belize Port Authority (BPA) is a statutory body established in 1980 legislated to ensure a safe and secure maritime environment. The BPA is charged with the duty to regulate all sea ports and harbours in Belize.

## Mission:

*"To offer professional, courteous and effective services to the maritime community in Belize, with the main focus on safety & security of shipping operations and the protection of the marine environment; and to engage our stakeholders in the development of Belize's maritime industry."*

## Motto:

"Maritime Service, Security & Efficiency"

## Roles and Functions:

1. Maintenance of all navigational aids i.e lighthouses, beacons, and buoys.
2. Ensure compliance of all port facilities under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code.
3. Licensing and registration of all local vessels and issuing of Captain/Master's License.
4. Collection of revenues: port dues, boarding and navigation aids fees.
5. Disseminate accurate and updated information to mariners in an efficient manner through the National Maritime Communication Center manned 24 hours.
6. Ensure that all ports and harbour operations are returned to normalcy after any disaster/hazard.