

Article from Lat 38

Bond Requirements for French Polynesia

February 24, 2010

Immigration officials in French Polynesia have cleared up the confusion regarding the posting of a bond in French Polynesia. There is a change this year. The bond must be paid at the port of arrival, even if it is in the Marquesas. So, all the non-EU crews must post the bond, except those that use an agent. The 30 days period to reach Tahiti is no longer valid. All the crews that do not want to post the bond MUST use an agent. The PPJ bond exemption that was made available to our fleet last year is no longer available. The Tahiti Yacht Club has decided not to continue to offer this to visiting fleets.

The bond requirement can be fulfilled in a number of ways:

1. Post a monetary bond per person on board equivalent to a flight to their home country. This bond is paid to the bank and refunded, with a financial impact of bank fees and changes in the exchange rate between the time the bond was posted and refunded.
2. Have an airline ticket in hand for a flight home. Some cruisers have danced around this by presenting a copy of a reservation made on-line but never actually booked and other similar strategies. These all contain a certain level of risk that the officials will not accept them and then you are on the hook for a bond/ticket.
3. Use an agent to write a bond for you. This makes them responsible for your financial bond. There is a fee for this bond service. Two agents in French Polynesia have provided bond exemption letters for PPJ boats in the past.
 - a. [Polynesia Yacht Services](#)
 - b. [Tahiti Yacht Agents](#)

Their detailed information and price offers are in separate files in the PPJ Files section in the " directory located here in the PPJ group

There is a significant difference in the rates of these two agents. TYA offers a fixed price per PPJ boat. This is a special offer only for PPJ vessels and is not available to the general cruising community. As such, it is to be kept private and not broadcast to the general cruising population. Any vessel, however, is quite welcome to join the PPJ group. The TYA cost is 9200 XPF (\$110USD) total per vessel. The PYS rate is partly per vessel and partly per person. For a vessel with 4 people on board the total cost would be 69000XPF (\$820) total for vessel and crew. For TYA you need to arrange for the bond ahead of time and pay the fees. For PYS there are agents in the Marquesas where you can arrange the entry requirements and pay then. Both companies have provided services to past PPJ fleets and have both done a good job for us. Both offer a full range of services beyond the bond exemption. See their details for their other services.

Note: If you do use the TYA services do not use the PYS local agents in the Marquesas or you will end up paying both companies

Polynesia Yacht Services

February 24, 2010

The following is from Polynesia Yacht Services:

Dear Yachters,

Ia Orana and welcome in French Polynesia. As registered yacht agent, PYS will be happy to assist you during your stay in our waters. You will find below main services that we provide:

- **Official formalities** (entrance, inter-island and departure clearances), **Customs and Immigration clearances, consultancy in regulations.**
- **Bond exemption letters** for non EEC crew members (avoiding bank deposit).
- **Duty free fuel formalities** (cruising and export duty free fuel).
- **Advance port, marina, shipyard reservation** (in Tahiti or Leeward Islands).
- **Laundry, refill gas bottles**
- **Customs broker service and transportation for import / export orders.** (Duty free as ship's spares in transit). Forwarding to outer islands.
- **Maintenance and repairs.** (Reliable network with English speakers. Sail repairs, carpentry, reefer and mechanic engineering, electronic, electricity, welding, watermaker, A/C, computer technician.)
- **Local GSM SIM Cards with itemized billings, fax services, internet WIFI.**
- **Boat cleaning and underwater works.**
- **Parts and ship's chandlery** at reduced price.
- **Nautical charts** for French Polynesia, Cook, Tonga, Fiji.
- **Local and international air tickets, travel arrangements.**
- **Reduced tariffs:**
 - **Car rental** (10 to 15% with HERTZ).
 - **Shipyard** (5% with Raiatea Carenage Services).
 - **Hotel accommodations** (up to 25%) with SOFITEL and INTERCONTINENTAL resorts.
 - **Dive centers** (10%) Contact us for quote and booking.

Service Fees 2010:

1. Official Formalities / Immigration, Customs, Papeete Port

(Minimum contract)

Official clearances : 7.000 CFP per clearance (in, inter islands, departure)

Bond exemption letter: 7.000 CFP per passport (for non EEC Citizens)

Duty free fuel formalities 7.000 CFP once

Visa extension (up to 90 days) 5.000 CFP per passport

2. All other services

Services fees : 3.500 CFP per hour OR

Weekly lumpsum: 15.000 CFP per week

Buying commission: 10% on goods and services provided

VAT: 10% local tax has to be added on services fees

POLYNESIA YACHT SERVICES

Registered yacht agent in French Polynesia

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Our references :

SY Ruling Angel, SY Bravado, SY Medusa, SY Integrity, SY Swan Lake, SY Van Diemen, SY Sea Bear, SY Scarlet Muse, SY Glass Slipper, SY Sarava, SY Cosmos, SY Fruity Fruits, SY Emerald, SY Emerald Jane, SY Echoes, SY Senoiki, SY Laelia, SY R.Tucker Thompson, SY Indra, SY Chardonnay II, SY Jamboree, SY Safari, SY Redwood Coast II, SY Kalevala, SY Medusa, SY R. Factor, MV Searcher, MV Done Dreamin, MV Shorleave, MV Gentle Wind, MV Ice Dancer

Tahiti Yacht Agents

February 24, 2010

The following is from Tahiti Yacht Agents:

The Web page is www.tya.pf/index.php (check it out for all the services we offer). Tahiti Yacht Agents has made a fixed price offer per boat for the 2010 PPJ fleet. Please give this your earliest attention so everything will be waiting for you in French Polynesia.

The procedure is as follows:

After discussions with our bank agent we decided that it is preferable to be paid in Euros, because the Pacific Franc is linked directly to the Euro. This will eliminate currency instability. So, when making the Paypal transfer, please select the Euro currency and transfer 77 Euros (\$108 USD).

1. Web address <https://www.paypal.com> (follow the pointer to Send Money, 77 Euros, for Services) to this Paypal address: **general@tya.pf** with this reference: (there is a box in the payment section for this information) **TYA special package for PUDDLEJUMP for (put your vessel name here)**
2. Send scanned documents needed for immigration [via email](#) (*Please put vessel name in subject line. Please include date of Paypal payment and estimate of arrival date and arrival port.*)
 - Copy of all the passports (first pages w/pictures, etc., not entire passport)
 - Copy of the boat registration
 - Crew list and captain's name
3. Cross the pacific with safety, trade winds and some Rum (for me; GRIN)
4. Stop at HIVA OA (for example) and take the first breath of the Polynesian MANA, then go to the police station (*gendarmerie*) and tell them that you are entering the country with a bond exemption from Tahiti Yacht Agents. They will have the fax I sent them with the letter of guarantee, which make us responsible of you in case of repatriation. Do not use the local PYS agents when you arrive or you will be paying for services already provided by Tahiti Yacht Agents.
5. Continueto enjoy your cruise between the islands of Marquesas and Tuamotu.
6. Contact me just before arriving in Tahiti; I will be there with your deserved flower crowns to take your passports again and make the official clearance at Immigration without extra charges.
7. Enjoy your trip into the Pacific.

Please feel free to contact me for any misunderstanding [by email](#), and be sure to check out our [Web page](#) if you want a berth in Marina Taina or other services.

With my best wishes and regards,
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