

# MARITIME NAVIGATION LAW

Private maritime transport in Spain is primarily regulated by the **Maritime Navigation Law (Law 14/2014, of July 24)**, along with European and international regulations. Below, I explain the key points:

## 1. Applicable Regulations

**Maritime Navigation Law:** Regulates everything related to navigation, from vessel ownership to use.

**Royal Decree 875/2014:** Regulates nautical certifications for recreational vessels.

**Commercial Code:** Contains some regulations on maritime transport contracts. International Regulations: Conventions such as SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) and MARPOL (Prevention of Pollution from Ships).

## 2. Private Maritime Transport

There are two main cases:

### A) Private transport (recreational use)

If you use your boat to sail with friends or family for non-profit purposes, recreational boating regulations apply:

An appropriate nautical qualification is required (depending on the size and power of the boat).

The boat must be registered and entered into the Vessel Registry of the Directorate General of the Merchant Marine.

Maritime safety regulations must be met, such as carrying life jackets, flares, and fire extinguishers.

A civil liability insurance policy is mandatory.

### B) Commercial Passenger Transport

If a person transports passengers for commercial purposes (e.g., boat trips), stricter requirements apply:

A specific operating license is required.

The boat must comply with enhanced maritime safety regulations and undergo periodic inspections.

Tax and labor regulations apply if there is a hired crew.

## 3. Important Legal Aspects

**Navigation Zones:** Depending on the license, there are limits on how far you can sail from the coast.

**Liability in the event of an accident:** The owner or captain of the vessel is liable both civilly and criminally in the event of negligence.

**Control and Sanctions:** The Guardia Civil del Maritime and the Maritime Authority can inspect vessels and sanction non-compliance.

Maritime  
Navigation  
Law

Royal Decree  
875/2014

Commercial  
Code

International  
regulations