

Section 6 – Foreign Vessels Visiting U.S. Ports

The procedures for obtaining diplomatic clearances of foreign public vessels, armed or unarmed, entering the United States territory are outlined below.

6.1 Naval Ship Visits

Naval ship visits: Will be handled by the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Office of International Security and Peacekeeping Operations. *Notes verbale* and/or letters should be forwarded to:

Naval Advisor (PM/ISO), Room 2422
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520
Phone: (202) 647-4155
Fax: (202) 647-4055

6.2 All Other Vessel Clearances

All other vessel clearances: Will be handled by the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Research Vessel Office. *Notes verbale* should be forwarded to:

Research Vessel Clearance Officer
(OES/OA), Room 5805
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520
Phone: (202) 647-0238
Fax: (202) 647-1106

6.3 Procedure

Vessel clearance requests must be made 30 calendar days in advance of the date of arrival or event. The information below should be provided when requesting vessel clearances.

For vessels making port calls:

- Name and type of vessel, as well as any identifying

markings

- Type of visit (formal-ceremonial, informal-goodwill, or routine-operational)
- Name of ports to be visited and dates of arrival and departure from each port
- Name and rank of the vessel's commander
- Number of personnel in the vessel's complement, with a breakdown by rank
- Number of civilians/passengers embarked, their nationalities, and the function or reason for being on board
- Any special provisions the vessel will require
- Name, telephone number, and fax number of the point of contact in the embassy who is handling the request.

Additional information required specifically for research vessels:

(see also <http://www.state.gov/g/oes/ocns/rvc/3503.htm> for application form and procedures)

- A description of scientific purpose and research objectives
- A chart showing ship's track and list of station locations
- Description of the vessel to be used:
 - Name of vessel
 - Owner or operator
 - Name of ship's master
 - Radio call sign
 - Special radio frequencies for contacting vessel at sea
 - Gross tonnage
 - Overall length
 - Draft
 - Number of crew and officers
- Description of research equipment to be used
- Name of principal scientist, his government affiliation or name of institution, and number in the scientific party

- Ship itinerary (including dates of research in U.S. waters and dates and locations of port calls and reason for port calls)
- Indication of procedure regarding U.S. participation and/or U.S. cooperation in project
- Commitment to freely share all data, results and reports with the U.S. Government
- Name, telephone number, and fax number of the point of contact in the embassy who is handling the request.