

Register of Ships Act

(512/1993; amendments up to 1158/2013 included)

Chapter 1 – **General provisions**

Section 1 – *Register of Ships, ships liable to registration and Continuous Synopsis Record (486/2004)*

- (1) A Register of Ships shall be kept of Finnish ships with a length of 15 m and upwards, and engaged in merchant shipping.
- (2) For the purposes of this act, mobile platforms and structures and other mobile offshore units shall be considered equivalent to ships.
- (3) Provisions concerning the nationality of ships are laid down in the Maritime Act. [(167/1939)]
- (4) A Continuous Synopsis Record as referred to in Chapter 2a shall also be kept concerning all Finnish passenger ships and Finnish cargo ships of at least 500 gross tonnage entered in the Register of Ships and engaged in international traffic. (486/2004)

Maritime Act No. 167/1939 has been repealed by Maritime Act No. 674/1994.

Section 2 – *Voluntary registration*

Finnish ships which are engaged in merchant shipping but fall short of the length specified in section 1 may, at the owner's request, be entered in the Register of Ships, provided they have a length of not less than 10 m.

Section 3 – *Register of Ships under Construction*

- (1) A ship under construction in Finland may, upon request, be entered in the Register of Ships under Construction, which is kept in conjunction with the Register of Ships, if the ship, on completion, will meet the requirements of sections 1 and 2.
- (2) If the ship, on completion, is to be taken abroad for registration, it may be entered in the Register of Ships under Construction regardless of its future nationality or intended purpose, provided it has a length of not less than 10 m.
- (3) Ships may be entered in the Register prior to construction, provided that they can be identified by their yard number and drawings or in some other reliable way.

Section 4 – *Registration authorities and register districts*

- (1) A Register of Ships shall be kept by the Finnish Transport Safety Agency and the State Department of Åland (*registration authority*). The register districts shall be the Province of Åland and the rest of Finland. The State Department of Åland shall keep a register of ships whose home port is situated in the Province of Åland. (1292/2009)
- (2) A ship under construction shall be entered in the Register of Ships under Construction in whichever register district the shipowner prefers.
- (3) Provisions concerning the home port of ships are laid down in the Maritime Act.
- (4) Provisions concerning the duties of registration authorities as keepers of Continuous Synopsis Records are laid down in Chapter 2a. (486/2004)

Section 5 has been repealed by Act No. 486/2004.

Section 6 – *Engaging ships in merchant shipping*

A ship as referred to in section 1 cannot engage in merchant shipping unless it has been entered in the Register of Ships and the registration authority has issued a Certificate of Nationality for it.

Section 7 – *Provisional Certificate of Nationality*

- (1) If a ship as referred to in section 6 has been built abroad for a customer and can be considered a Finnish ship by virtue of the order being Finnish, or if the ship has, while abroad, changed its flag to a Finnish flag, the Finnish diplomatic or consular mission shall, having assured itself that the new owner's acquisition is legal, issue a Provisional Certificate of Nationality for the ship. This certificate shall not, however, be granted for a period exceeding three months.
- (2) If special cause exists, the registration authority may also issue a Provisional Certificate of Nationality for a ship abroad, or authorize the Finnish mission to do so in other cases than those specified in subparagraph 1. In such cases the certificate is granted for a set period and on conditions set by the registration authority.
- (3) If required for a compelling cause, the registration authority may also, on conditions set by it, issue a Provisional Certificate of Nationality for a ship in Finland which should be, but is not, recorded in the register.
- (4) During its period of validity, a Provisional Certificate of Nationality confers the same rights as a Certificate of Nationality.

Section 8 – *Relation to other registers*

Ships entered in the Register of Fishing Vessels shall also be entered in the Register of Ships in the district concerned, provided they meet the requirements of section 1.

Chapter 2 – **Provisions concerning the Register of Ships and the Register of Ships under Construction**

Section 9 – *Entries in the Register of Ships*

- (1) Decisions concerning registration of ships and recording of title to ships (*rulings relevant to the Register of Ships*) shall be entered in the Register of Ships.
- (2) The Register of Ships shall record the following:
 - 1) the ship's date of registry, register number, name, previous name(s), home port, call sign and IMO number;
 - 2) the type of ship, tonnage, dimensions, builder, time and place of construction, and its intended purpose;
 - 3) the name, nationality and domicile of the owner and the size of his holding; if the owner is Finnish, his social security number or, in the case of a corporate owner, trade register number or other identifying number shall also be recorded;
 - 4) if the ship belongs to a shipping partnership, the items listed in subparagraph 3 shall be recorded for the principal owner, along with the holdings of the other owners.
- (3) In addition, any mortgages on the ship and information on any order of execution, seizure or arrest of the ship, declaration of the owner's bankruptcy, and alterations in such information shall be entered in the Register of Ships. (1158/2013)
- (5) If the applicant's title is subject to a condition restricting his right of transfer or mortgage, this shall be entered in the register.
- (5) Any other circumstance having a bearing on rulings relevant to the Register of Ships as referred to in paragraph 1 may also be entered in the Register of Ships.

Section 10 – *Entries in the Register of Ships under Construction*

- (1) Decisions concerning registration of ships under construction and recording of title to such ships (*rulings relevant to the Register of Ships under Construction*) shall be entered in the Register of Ships under Construction.
- (2) The Register of Ships under Construction shall record the following:
 - 1) the date of registry, register number, yard number, place of construction and estimated time of completion of a ship under construction;
 - 2) the type of ship, tonnage and dimensions as accurately as possible in the light of current knowledge, and the ship's intended purpose;
 - 3) the name, nationality and domicile of the owner and his holding in the ship; if the owner is Finnish, his social security number, or, in the case of a corporate owner, trade register number or other identifying number shall also be recorded;

- 4) if the ship is being constructed for a shipping partnership, the items listed in subparagraph 3 shall be recorded for the principal owner, along with the holdings of the other owners.
- (3) In addition, any mortgages on the ship and information on any order of execution, seizure or arrest of the ship, declaration of the owner's bankruptcy, and alterations in such information shall be entered in the Register of Ships under Construction. (1158/2013)
- (4) If the applicant's title is subject to a condition restricting his right of transfer or mortgage, this shall be entered in the register.
- (5) Any other circumstance having a bearing on rulings relevant to the Register of Ships under Construction as referred to in paragraph 1 may also be entered in the Register of Ships under Construction.

Section 11 – *Language to be used in documents submitted to the registration authority*

With the exception of the application, documents submitted to the registration authority can also be written in English.

Section 12 – *Correction of errors (486/2004)*

- (1) In correcting an erroneous decision in a registration matter or an incorrect register entry, the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) shall be complied with. The provisions below on decision-making in registration matters apply to decision-making concerning the correction of errors. If no immediate decision is taken on a correction matter, it shall be entered in the register as pending.
- (2) In matters concerning personal data, the provisions of the Personal Data Act (523/1999) also apply.

Section 13 – *Payment of damages for loss*

- (1) A person who sustains a loss because of obvious spelling mistakes or other comparable errors in the entries made in the Register of Ships, the Register of Ships under Construction or certificates granted pursuant to them is entitled to payment of damages from government funds.
- (2) If the said person, for no adequate reason, has failed to take the necessary steps to have such errors corrected, or if he has contributed to the loss himself, the amount of damages may be reduced or no damages awarded at all as judged reasonable in the circumstances.
- (3) The injured party's right to claim damages from another on contractual or other grounds passes to the government to the extent of the amount of damages paid by the government.
- (4) In any action concerning damages the Finnish government is represented by the State Treasury.

Chapter 2a – **Continuous Synopsis Record** (486/2004)

Section 13a – *Keeping a Continuous Synopsis Record*

- (1) The Continuous Synopsis Record shall comprise an uninterrupted summary of all phases in the ship's ownership, comprising information obtained from the shipowner(s) and foreign authorities and otherwise acquired by the registration authority, to which corresponding information from the registration authority in any former flag State is appended.
- (2) The Continuous Synopsis Record is intended to provide the basis for a continuously updated on-board file on the ship concerned that contains at least the information laid down in section 13b.
- (3) The Continuous Synopsis Record shall be kept in English in the approved format, but information in it obtained from a foreign registration authority can also be in French or Spanish. Information for entry into the Record can also be supplied to the registration authority in Finnish or Swedish. The notifications and other documents providing information for the Record shall constitute a CSR file on the ship concerned.
- (4) No information formerly in the Record may be deleted, modified, erased or defaced.

Section 13b – *Contents of the Record*

The following shall be entered in the Continuous Synopsis Record concerning each ship:

- 1) the name of the flag State, and the starting and ending dates of registration in that State;
- 2) the IMO number, name and domicile;
- 3) the registered owner and his address;
- 4) any bareboat charterer and his address;
- 5) the shipowner and his address, and any addresses at which the shipowner engages in safety-management activities;
- 6) the name of the classification society that classified the ship;
- 7) the name of the Administration or approved body that issued the shipowner with the Document of Compliance or Interim Document of Compliance specified in the international safety-management regulations of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) concerning the safe operation of ships and the prevention of environmental pollution (ISM Code), or with a Safety Management Certificate (or Interim Safety Certificate) and the name of the body which carried out the audit on the basis of which the certificate was issued, if other than that issuing the Certificate; and
- 8) the name of the Administration or recognized security organization that issued the International Ship Security Certificate (or Interim International Ship Security Certificate) specified in part A of the ISPS Code as defined in Regulation (EC) No. 725/2004 of the European Parliament and Council on enhancing ship and port facility security, and the name of the body that carried out the verification on the basis of which the Certificate was issued, if other than that issuing the Certificate.

Section 13c – *Duties of the shipowner and master*

- (1) The shipowner shall notify the registration authority verifiably of the following:
 - 1) the information referred to in section 13b when registration duty commences on the ship's becoming Finnish;
 - 2) any change in the information referred to in section 13b not later than 30 days from occurrence of the change; and
 - 3) the new flag State if the shipowner transfers the ship from the Finnish Register of Ships.
- (2) The shipowner or ship's master shall:
 - 1) keep the CSR file on the ship and permit a competent inspector to inspect it at any time; and
 - 2) leave the CSR file on the ship if it is transferred to another State's flag or sold to a new owner, if a new bareboat charterer chartered the ship, or if another owner assumes responsibility for operating the ship.

Section 13d – *Duties of the registration authority*

The registration authority shall:

- 1) enter in the Register the information on the ship laid down in section 13b and any changes in this information;
- 2) provide the ship with a CRS file based on the Register;
- 3) provide the ship with information on any change in the registered information as rapidly as possible and at the latest within three months of occurrence of the change, by correcting, updating or rectifying the CRS file;
- 4) if necessary, when the process referred to in subsection 3 is delayed, require the shipowner or master to rectify the on-board CRS file when the information in it has changed and notify the registration authority of said rectification;
- 5) enter in the Register the information provided by a foreign authority when a ship is transferred to the Finnish Register of Ships; and
- 6) as soon as possible send register information on a ship transferred under a foreign flag to the Administration in the new flag state.

Section 13e – *Application of other provisions of the Act*

- (1) What is provided in sections 1(3), 4(1) and (3), 12 and 13, 16(2), 28(1), 30-32, 42, 44 and 45 shall likewise apply to the Continuous Synopsis Record. What is provided in section 22(1) concerning supplementation of applications applies to the notifications referred to in this Chapter.

- (2) The Ministry of Transport and Communications approves the format to be used in keeping the Continuous Synopsis Record and in the CSR file.

Section 13f – Request for rectification and appeal

- (1) Any concerned party dissatisfied with a registration authority decision in a matter related to a Continuous Synopsis Record may apply for rectification to the body that has made the decision within 30 days of being informed of it.
- (2) A decision regarding which a request for rectification has been rejected can be appealed to an Administrative Court as provided in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act (586/1996).

Chapter 3 – Registration of ships and ships under construction and entry of title

Section 14 – Duty to report information to the Register of Ships

- (1) Shipowners shall report ships for registration and apply for registration of their title.
- (2) A person whose title has not yet become final is likewise entitled to lodge an application for registration of his title.
- (3) In the case of a shipping partnership, the principal owner is also entitled to apply for registration of the ship and of title to the ship on behalf of the partnership.

Section 15 – Application for registration of title

An application for registration of title to a ship entered in the Register of Ships shall be made within 30 days of the date of succession in title. If the succession in title or its finality is linked to a contractual condition, the period commences on the date on which the acquisition is finalized according to the said condition.

Section 16 – Report for alteration of entry

- (1) If there has been any change in circumstances having a bearing on information recorded in the register, besides such that is referred to in section 15, the owner shall report the information in writing to the register within the period stipulated in section 15.
- (2) If a relevant change has become known to the registration authority otherwise, the authority may alter the information recorded in the register accordingly. The registered owner shall then be given an opportunity to be heard. Should the alteration or its legal consequences affect any other person, this person shall likewise be given opportunity to be heard.
- (3) If the name of the ship has been changed, the ship cannot engage in merchant shipping before its new name has been reported to the registration authority.

Section 17 – Transfer of ship's registration from abroad

- (1) If a ship has changed its flag from foreign into Finnish, the ship cannot be entered in the Finnish Register of Ships except upon submission of a certificate from the registration authority in the previous country of registration stating that the ship has been duly deleted from their register of ships or will be deleted as soon as it is entered in the Finnish register, or that some other entry to the same effect will be made to the foreign register at that point.
- (2) This provision also applies to a new building which has been acquired from abroad and which has been registered in a foreign register of ships under construction.

Section 18 – Dispute over title

Registration of title is without prejudice to any action brought to determine the legal validity of an acquisition.

Section 19 – Registration in cases of double transfer

If a person has transferred a ship or a holding in a ship to more than one person and if these persons have simultaneously applied for registration of title, the transfer that is of the earliest date shall be entered in the register.

Chapter 4 – **Procedure concerning registration of ships or ships under construction and registration of title**

Section 20 – *Application for registration*

- (1) Applications for registration of a ship and registration of title in the Register of Ships shall be made in writing and be signed by the applicant or his agent.
- (2) The application shall include
 - 1) the name of the ship which the application for registration or registration of title concerns;
 - 2) the name of the owner;
 - 3) other information to be entered in the register, if not appended to the application;
 - 4) the telephone number of the owner, or his representative or agent, and the address to which notices should be sent.
- (3) The applicant shall submit adequate evidence to establish the legality of his acquisition. Original documents providing evidence of legal succession in title, or copies thereof duly certified by a notary public, shall be appended to the application.
- (4) If the previous owner's acquisition has not been entered in the register, such documentation on his title as would be necessary for registration of said acquisition shall be submitted. Documents on the previous owner's acquisition need not be presented if the ship has been sold by compulsory auction.

Section 21 – *Beginning of lis pendens and registration proceedings*

- (1) A registration applied for becomes pending as soon as the application has been received by the competent registration authority. A note concerning a pending registration shall be entered in the register without delay.
- (2) Processing of pending registrations shall be commenced without delay and pending cases shall be decided in the order in which the applications concerned are received by the registration authority.

Section 22 – *Supplementation of application*

- (1) If the application is incomplete but correction is feasible, the applicant shall be requested to supplement his application. The request shall stipulate how the application should be supplemented, set a day by which the information requested must be supplied and provide the applicant with information on the consequences of non-compliance with the request. If necessary, supplementation may be requested a second time.
- (2) If the applicant does not supplement his application in the required manner by the time referred to in paragraph 1, the application shall be dismissed without prejudice.

Section 23 – *Hearing*

In order to establish relevant facts concerning the acquisition of title to a ship, the registration authority may summon a party, or any other person involved, to appear before it either in person or by proxy at a time set by the authority.

Section 24 – *Abeyance*

- (1) An application concerning registration of a ship or title that could otherwise be registered shall be left in abeyance, if
 - 1) the acquisition of the ship or the finality of the acquisition is dependent on conditions included in a contract or other transaction;
 - 2) the transaction on which the acquisition is based has not gained legal validity;
 - 3) another person has applied for registration of title to the same ship prior to the applicant, having acquired title from the same party as the applicant;
 - 4) a dispute over the legal validity of the acquisition or better right to the ship is pending;
 - 5) an execution order or some interlocutory injunction has been entered in the register for the ship concerned before the registration applied for became pending;
 - 6) the applicant has been granted a right to public announcement for the purpose of registration of his title.

- (2) The applicant may be required to submit supplementary evidence on circumstances referred to in paragraph 1 within a period of time set by the authority. The provisions of section 22 concerning supplementation of applications apply equally to the submission of supplementary evidence and the consequences of failing to present such evidence.
- 3) The registration authority may also on its own initiative resume the processing of a registration left in abeyance. The application cannot, however, be refused before the applicant has been provided with an opportunity to be heard.

Section 25 – *Public announcement*

If the applicant has not presented sufficient documentary evidence to establish clear title as referred to in section 20, or certified copies thereof, but presents sufficient evidence that the documents concerned have been lost or destroyed and that the acquisition is legally valid, he shall be granted a right to public announcement for the purpose of registration of title.

Section 26 – *Public announcement proceedings*

- (1) The applicant shall present documentary evidence to establish sufficient legal grounds for his application for public announcement.
- (2) In the public announcement, the registration authority shall request any person who finds that he has better right to the ship than the applicant to bring action against the applicant within a period of three months as of the day the announcement is published in the Official Gazette, at the risk of forfeiting the right to contest registration of the applicant's title.
- (3) The applicant shall publish the announcement once in the first issue of the Official Gazette in any quarter of the year and once in a national newspaper. Furthermore, the registration authority shall inform such persons of the announcement whose rights, to the knowledge of the authority, could be affected by registration of the applicant's title.
- (4) If no legal action is brought to contest the applicant's alleged title within the set period, or if action has been duly brought but the contestant's case has been dismissed either by a ruling that has become legally final or without prejudice, the owner's title may be registered.

Section 27 – *Dismissal of application*

The action must be dismissed if:

- 1) documentary evidence to establish the applicant's title as referred to in section 20 (3) and (4) has not been presented and right to public announcement as referred to in section 25 has not been requested;
- 2) the party from whom the applicant derives his title was not entitled to assign the ship and an entry concerning this restriction of the right of administration had been made in the register prior to the transfer; or
- 3) there is some other obstacle to registration of the ship or registration of the title.

Section 28 – *Decision and documentation in a registration matter*

- (1) Registration matters shall be solved by recording the decision in the Register of Ships. If a registration matter is left pending or the authority makes a decision to that end concerning the proceedings in the matter, this shall be entered in the register. The entry in the register will state the content of the decision. Entries shall be made without delay.
- (2) If the application is dismissed, a separate decision stating the grounds shall be issued. A separate decision is also issued, at the applicant's request, if the application is left pending or a similar decision as regards the proceedings is taken.
- (3) Upon the registration of the ship, a Certificate of Nationality shall be issued. In the event of other measures, the applicant shall receive a Certificate of Nationality, some other certificate or a separate decision.

Section 29 – *Proceedings concerning registration of ships and title to ships under construction*

- (1) The owner of a ship under construction may apply for registration thereof.
- (2) The provisions of this Act on the registration of ships and the registration of title to ships shall apply as appropriate to the registration of ships under construction and the registration of title to them.

Chapter 5 – **Deletion of a ship from the Register of Ships and the Register of Ships under Construction**

Section 30 – *Prerequisites for deletion of ships from the Register of Ships*

- (1) The owner of a ship shall apply for deletion of the ship from the Register of Ships within 30 days of the day on which:
 - 1) the ship no longer meets the requirements for registration laid down in sections 1 and 2;
 - 2) the owner of the ship has been notified of the fact that the ship has been wrecked and declared condemned; or
 - 3) the ship is missing and has not been heard of within the time laid down in section 71 of the Insurance Contracts Act (132/33).
- (2) If the ship has been entered in the register by virtue of authorization, deletion must be requested as soon as the authorization expires.
- (3) If the ship has changed nationality, the last Finnish owner is also required to apply for deletion of the ship from the register.
- (4) A ship shall be removed from the register at the owner's request if:
 - 1) the ship has been entered in the register by virtue of the approval referred to in Chapter 1 (2) of the Maritime Act (674/1994); or
 - 2) a ship entered in the register under Chapter 1, section 1 (1), of the Maritime Act is entered in the ships' register of a country in the European Economic Area (EEA) under Chapter 1, section 1 (4) of the said Act. (1303/1999)

Insurance Contracts Act No. 132/1933 has been repealed by Act No. 543/1994.

Section 31 – *The registration authority's right to delete the ship*

- (1) If the owner of the ship does not fulfil his obligations under section 30, the registration authority may delete the ship on grounds mentioned in the said section. Prior to deletion, the registration authority shall afford the registered owner the opportunity to be heard.
- (2) The registered owner of a ship entered in the register shall be informed without delay of a registration authority decision to delete the ship from the register.

Section 32 – *Additional prerequisites for deletion from the register*

- (1) If a ship is mortgaged or recorded as subject to execution or other interlocutory injunctions, it cannot be deleted without the written consent of the mortgagees or the person who has applied for the execution or interlocutory injunction.
- (2) The provisions of paragraph 1 do not apply to a change of the ship's register district.
- (3) If the owner of the ship is a shipping partnership and a holding in the ship has been transferred to a foreign national with the consequence that the ship ceases to be of Finnish nationality, the registration authority is not, without the consent of the other shipowners, entitled to delete the ship from the register until expiry of the period of redemption laid down in section 36 (3) of the Maritime Act.

Maritime Act No. 167/1939 has been repealed by Maritime Act No. 674/1994.

Section 33 – *Return of Certificate of Nationality*

Upon deletion of a ship from the register, its latest Finnish owner shall return its Certificate of Nationality to the registration authority.

Section 34 – *Deletion of a ship from the Register of Ships under Construction*

- (1) The owner registered in the Register of Ships under Construction shall request deletion of a ship from the register not later than 60 days after construction work has been completed.
- (2) If the owner does not fulfil his obligations as laid down in paragraph 1, the registration authority may delete the ship. In such case the respective provisions of section 31 likewise apply.

Section 35 – Additional requirements for deletion from the Register of Ships under Construction

- (1) If a ship which has been built in Finland and entered in the Register of Ships under Construction is mortgaged or there are entries stating that it is subject to execution or some other interlocutory injunction, the ship cannot be deleted from the Register of Ships under Construction without the written consent of the mortgagees or the person who has applied for execution or an interlocutory remedy.
- (2) The provisions of paragraph 1 do not apply to transfers of ships to the Finnish Register of Ships.
- (3) When a ship entered in the Register of Ships under Construction is removed and entered in the Register of Ships in accordance with this Act, the entries concerning mortgage, execution and other circumstances that have been entered in the Register of Ships under Construction shall be transferred to the Register of Ships and recorded under the relevant entry.

Chapter 6 – Appeal in registration matters

Section 36 – Appeal

An appeal against the final ruling of the registration authority on the registration of a ship or title to a ship and on decisions to have an application pending may be addressed to the Helsinki Court of Appeal.

Section 37 – Appeal instructions

If a registration matter has been decided differently from what the applicant requested, appeal instructions shall be appended to the document. The registration authority shall also provide appeal instructions on request.

Section 38 – Limitation of appeal

The time for submission of an appeal is 30 days from the date on which the applicant was notified of the decision. The appellant shall submit his petition of appeal to the registration authority by the date of expiry of the appeal period, at the risk of forfeiting his right of action. The registration authority is required to record immediately in the register that a petition of appeal has been submitted.

Section 39 – Application of the Code of Judicial Procedure

- (1) The Code of Judicial Procedure applies to appeals, as appropriate, in addition to the provisions of this Act. Notification of intent to appeal need not, however, be submitted.
- (2) The registration authority shall supply the Court of Appeal with a copy of the file and a transcript from the register.

Section 40 – Proceedings in the appellate court

The appellate court shall deal with registration matters urgently.

Section 41 – Notification of appellate court rulings and return of matters to the registration authority

- (1) The appellate court shall notify the registration authority of its final ruling without delay.
- (2) The registration authority shall of its own accord take up a matter that the appellate court has returned.

Chapter 7 – Miscellaneous provisions

Section 42 – Conditional fine

The registration authority may declare an obligation under this Act subject to conditional fine and impose a conditional fine as provided in the Act on Conditional Fines (1113/90).

Section 43 – *Penal provisions*

- (1) A shipowner who
 - 1) uses a ship referred to in section 1 for merchant shipping before the ship has been granted a Certificate of Nationality or a Provisional Certificate of Nationality; or
 - 2) fails to submit to the registration authority the application referred to in section 15 in proper time, to report alterations as referred to in section 16, or to submit the request referred to in sections 30 and 34 for deletion of a ship from the register; or
 - 3) fails to fulfil the obligation under section 33 with regard to return of the Certificate of Nationality; shall, unless more stringent provisions are laid down elsewhere, be sentenced to a fine for *infringement of the Register of Ships Act*.
- (2) A person who fails to make in due time the notification to the registration authority referred to in section 13c (1) or who infringes the duty laid down in section 13c (2), or a ship's master who infringes the duty laid down in section 13c (2), shall be sentenced to a fine for *infringement of the Register of Ships Act*, unless more severe punishment is provided for elsewhere in the law. (486/2004)
- (3) A person who infringes a prohibition or obligation imposed under this Act and intensified by threat of fine cannot be sentenced to punishment for the same offence. (486/2004)

Section 44 – *Forum*

A charge concerning a minor offence as referred to in section 43 shall, if the offence has taken place abroad or during a ship's voyage, be tried in a court at the ship's first port of call or in the ship's home port. Otherwise it shall be subject to the Code of Judicial Procedure.

Section 45 – *Further provisions*

- (1) Further provisions concerning the keeping of the register and registration will be laid down by decree.
- (2) It can be provided by decree that the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue further instructions on the keeping of the register.

Section 46 – *Approval of forms*

The Certificate of Nationality and Provisional Certificate of Nationality forms and the forms used for the registration of ships will be approved by the Ministry of Transport and Communications on the recommendation of the registration authority.

Chapter 8 – **Entry into force and transitional provisions**

Section 47 – *Entry into force*

- (1) This Act enters into force on November 1, 1993.
- (2) Measures necessary for the implementation of the Act may be taken before it enters into force.

Section 48 – *Transitional provisions*

- (1) The National Board of Navigation shall transfer current register entries from the registers of ships kept by city administrative courts to the Register of Ships and Register of Ships under Construction. For this purpose, the city administrative courts shall submit all their files and documents concerning registered ships and ships under construction to the National Board of Navigation.
 - (2) The Provincial State Office of the Province of Åland shall transfer equivalent entries to registers set up in compliance with this Act.
 - (3) The Certificates of Nationality carried by ships when this Act enters into force shall be returned to the registration authority within a year, and the authority shall grant the ship a new Certificate of Nationality in compliance with this Act free of charge.
-