

# Skipper liability insurance and bond insurance

## Safe Chartering

If you charter a yacht, be it for regatta or for a relaxed sailing trip with your family, you should insure yourself against the specific risks of water sports. Skipper's liability and bond insurance are therefore part of the standard equipment on board. Pantaenius, Europe's leading specialist in yacht insurance and supporter of the ECC-Regatta, offers both products for easy online purchase.

### *Every skipper is liable with his own assets*

Even for experienced skippers there are risks at sea, which cannot be eliminated by good seamanship and modern equipment alone. A skipper's liability insurance should therefore be one of the essential companions of anyone who rents or charters boats. Even if each skipper is liable to third parties for culpably caused damage with all his personal assets, private liability insurance at sea does not normally cover damages incurred. Unlike in the automotive sector, there is also no statutory liability insurance for boats and yachts. So the skipper rarely knows how the yacht is insured in the event of damage. The Skipper's liability insurance always takes over if the yacht used is not or insufficiently insured and protects against unmanageable financial risks, which can often exceed the value of the yacht used many times over.

### *Also secured for yacht charter*

The Pantaenius Skipper's liability insurance is available for both private and professional skippers. In addition, you can rely on Pantaenius coverage during your next charter trip. In order to ensure that you are fully insured, damage to the chartered yacht is also included in the insurance, provided that this damage was caused by gross negligence and the ship's own hull insurance rejects coverage for damage incurred.

### *Don't worry about the deposit*

For many, a retention of the charter deposit, whether in whole or in part, is the most annoying scenario imaginable during the holiday trip. The relaxation is quickly over and the total cost of the trip has increased dramatically from one moment to the next. A bond insurance has therefore long been a standard feature of most charter crews. Danger recognized, danger averted, so one should think. However, as lawyer Gunnar Brock of Pantaenius can report, the practice is sometimes different: "Some bond insurance policies make a decisive difference between the lawful and unlawful retention of the deposit for the customer and only cover the lawful retention of the deposit. However, it is by no means always possible to prove whether a damage was caused by the skipper and his crew during use or whether it has already existed for some time. Often we are confronted with cases where the deposit is withheld without any damage caused by the crew. Pantaenius therefore, unlike some other providers, covers in the case of surety bond insurance any withholding of the deposit as long as a claim is asserted for the cause of damage".

A carefully filled in handover protocol protects, but once the deposit is withheld, the direct possibilities of the customers are very limited. Whether legal or not, litigation abroad is difficult, costly and usually time-consuming.

### *Caution Exclusions*

For charter skippers and their crews, however, further pitfalls await in the insurance conditions. Gunnar Brock advises: "If this case is excluded from insurance cover, the customer simply does not cover a considerable risk of damage. For some providers, it is also necessary to check carefully whether the sum insured is not less than the amount of the deposit, otherwise the objection of the underinsurance threatens to result in substantial reductions - or whether **regattas are excluded**. But, of course, very few people read the fine print with such precision."

**Guarantee insurance can be taken out with Pantaenius as part of a charter package, individually or in addition. For higher deposit sums, as they are common in the Caribbean for example, simply carry out the booking procedure several times. This way, the amount of deposit for each trip can be easily adapted to your personal needs.**

Bond insurance: <http://www.pantaenius.de/en/charter>

Skipper's liability insurance: <http://www.pantaenius.de/en/skipper>