

Yacht Project Management Tools

- Based on our years in the industry, and in association with our partners, we have developed a range of project management tools.
- These have been specifically tailored to the yacht and boat building industry.
- Each of these tools has a specific and integral role to play in the life of developing a yacht.

Initiation Pack

There is far more to a yacht project than opening a glossy brochure from a prestige manufacturer, pointing at a lovely picture and saying “I want one of those!”. It is important to ensure that the project structure is correct, the designs have been done, the brief and business case are well thought out and that a way of communicating has been established.

It is critically important to ensure that all of the essential information is thought about and captured at this stage. The Initiation Pack is pre-built and ensures that there are no ‘holes’ in the information, and that a baseline for future events is created.

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment and management is an often neglected but important part of assessing the severity and likelihood

Assessing a risk may be likened driving. Take the car as the project and the risk as the pothole. You need to assess:

- Can the car (project) just absorb the pothole (risk)
- Can the car get through the pot hole, but with more throttle (budget)
- Is the pothole big which means the car can proceed, but needs to drive around it? (Change of direction)
- Is the pothole so big that the car has to stop (project should not proceed or be cancelled)

We have pre-built project assessment and management packs as well as the experience that applies to the yachting industry.

Quality Framework

The management of quality must be right from the outset. Setting the quality level too high is as bad as inadequate quality. Excessively high quality demands, especially for charter boats, will mean substantial increased in the cost and a delay to the completion date, which can lead to delays and a loss of charter revenue.

- Planning of quality of standard yacht components, including their specification and performance criteria
- The plan meets with the expectations of the beneficial owner, & safety regulators (MCA), Class surveyors (Lloyds/ABS etc.), Flag states & chartered surveyors

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Management of Scope and Issues

Our pre-built pack will deal with the management of the three main issues which will be:

- Requests for change
- Off specification components
- General project issues (hearsay by project manager/staff complaints)

One of the single largest deviation factors that can occur to a yacht project is 'Scope Creep'. This is where a beneficial owner makes constant requests for change, possibly due to inadequate initial specification, which means that the end 'Scope' (cost and delivery date) bears little resemblance to what was initially proposed.

Yacht Specification

Specifying a yacht is about thinking. This pre-built yet flexible specification is the corner stone of project management and ensures that everything is thought about. Ensuring that the specification is correct initially helps prevent scope creep. This can help to bring home the extent of the task and thinking that is at hand, and ensure that the project is not initiated with an inadequate specification.

The specification has the following features:

- Splits a yacht into 40 different areas
- Splits a project up into 15 logical stages
- Pre-identifies every component which should be found on a yacht of up to 75 meters with up to 6 en-suite guest apartments
- Defines the logical stage at which each component should be fitted
- Defines the area where each component will be fitted
- Gives every component in the yacht a unique identification number
- Identifies the quality expectations for that component
- Calls for a full descriptions and method of installation for components
- Tracks the configuration and supplier of every component.
- Interfaces with the planning schedule and work arrangements

The final specified tool will be extensive, interactive, and will reflect the size of the task ahead.

Planning Pack

This offers an internationally recognised method for planning a project. Put simply, the stages are as follows:

- Develop a comprehensive product list
- Estimate the time each product will take to install
- Identifying the dependencies between products
- Plot the product involved in the project against real time
- Assigning resources to the project
- Applying cost estimating to the plan and producing the budget

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Project stage pack

This pre-built tool deals with two matters

- Breaking the project into stages to give control
- When things do not go according to plan, and start to go wrong, how will the situation be dealt with?

The owner/bank can review the build before the next stage and draw down. Progress can be reviewed. Personnel or the on site project manager can be replaced if he is not up to scratch etc.

The specification breaks the project into stages so that the beneficial owner can check that what should have been installed and completed and installed has been done. The stages are to ensure that those who have an interest in the yacht project have control over what is happening.

When matters do start to go wrong, communication and the correct information is essential. It is critical that the right person, who has all of the options available to them, makes a decision at the right time. These tools will make sure that this information is communicated in a comprehensive manner.

Work Pack

The work pack interfaces with the specification. The basis of the work pack is built around the following premise

- The products to be installed are identified by the specification based on the sequencing, timing and resources laid out in the schedule.
- The team leader has contribution to the timings for the schedule
- A negotiation goes on between the project manager and the team leader for the terms, time and constraints of work
- The team leader allocates staff or sub-contractors to install the products
- When the work package is completed the project manager is notified
- The project manager arranges for the quality to be assessed.

This pre-built pack embodies internationally recognised methods for organising work and installing products when managing a project.

Ordering

Based on many years in the industry this pack deal with many factors to do with ordering and staying on top of suppliers and sub-contractors. The premise is that information is kept transparent and easily communicated to those who are installing the products. It covers the following:

- Stock check lists
- Goods on order tracking systems
- Communication to staff and installers of equipment

This deals with down time and delays due to products and materials not being available at the right time.

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