

[Section 191 of the Malta Merchant Shipping Act](#) (Responsibilities of the Master under Vessel Traffic Service Arrangements) states that:

The master of a vessel remains fully responsible for the conduct and safe navigation of the vessel, even when operating under vessel traffic service (VTS) arrangements. Compliance with VTS instructions does not absolve the master of their inherent duty to ensure the vessel's safety.

Liability of the owner or master is not affected by compliance with VTS arrangements. This includes liability for:

- a. Loss, damage, or pollution caused by the vessel; or
- b. Loss, damage, or pollution arising from faults in the vessel's navigation, even if such faults occur while adhering to VTS guidance.

The Ports and Yachting Directorate issues [Port Notices](#) and [Notices to Mariners](#) to regulate navigation, enhance safety, and address operational matters. These notices are binding and must be observed by all vessels operating in Maltese waters, in addition to the obligations under the Malta Merchant Shipping Act and international maritime conventions.