



MALTA MARITIME AUTHORITY

Notice to Mariners No 35 of 2008

Repealing Notice to Mariners No 80 of 2007

Malta Vessel Traffic Services and Use of International Marine VHF Channels

Mariners are notified that in terms of the Malta Maritime Authority Act (Cap 352), it is the function of the Malta Maritime Authority to exercise overall control for the preservation of good order in the territorial and inland waters of Malta, and to provide, operate and maintain in ports and in port approaches adequate and efficient services and facilities for the proper, safe and efficient functioning of such ports.

In pursuance to these functions, the Malta Maritime Authority has established Vessel Traffic Services in terms of the Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Regulations, 2004. Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) means a service designed to improve the safety and efficiency of vessel traffic and to protect the environment. The competent authority for the implementation of these Regulations is the Malta Maritime Authority whilst the Armed Forces of Malta is the coastal station responsible to monitor shipping and receive information in terms of these regulations.

Therefore, two operational centres have been established to provide Vessel Traffic Service, namely

- **Valletta Ports Vessel Traffic Service (VALLETTA VTS)** operated by the Malta Maritime Authority to regulate the movement of vessels within and between ports, in the approaches to a port and within territorial waters when carrying out maritime activities. Traffic Organisation Service and Information Service are provided. A Navigational Assistance Service is provided on request or when deemed necessary.
- **Malta Coastal Station (MALTA VTS)** operated by the Armed Forces of Malta is responsible to monitor shipping and to receive vessel information within territorial waters. In terms of Regulation 8, the Coastal Station may request additional information even from ships beyond the territorial waters. Malta VTS provides an Information Service. A separate Notice to Mariners regarding procedure shall be promulgated at a later date.

VTS Areas

(1) Valletta VTS

The areas of the Valletta VTS (Valletta Port Control and Marsaxlokk Port Control) are primarily the ports and the port approaches and the designated Ports VTS areas.

The designated Ports VTS Areas falling within the Valletta VTS are enclosed by the following WGS 84 DATUM co-ordinates:

Area 1

Latitude (N)**Longitude (E)**

36° 01.73'
36° 01.73'
35° 59.85'
35° 58.66'
35° 59.23'

14° 22.56'
14° 23.46'
14° 26.51'
14° 26.51'
14° 23.76'

Area 2

Latitude (N)**Longitude (E)**

35° 53.03'
35° 53.33'
35° 52.23'
35° 52.03'
35° 52.43'
35° 52.63'

14° 35.06'
14° 35.46'
14° 36.16'
14° 35.76'
14° 35.46'
14° 35.06'

Area 3

Latitude (N)**Longitude (E)**

35° 54.93'
35° 54.93'
35° 51.93'
35° 51.93'

14° 44.56'
14° 48.76'
14° 44.56'
14° 48.76'

Area 3 is divided into two sectors:

East Sector and West Sector at

Long 014° 47'.0 (E)

LADEN TANKERS TO USE EAST

SECTOR ONLY

Area 4

Latitude (N)**Longitude (E)**

35° 50.63'
35° 48.93'
35° 48.93'

14° 35.96'
14° 35.96'
14° 34.86'

Area 6

Latitude (N)**Longitude (E)**

35° 57.83'
35° 57.83'
35° 57.23'
35° 56.83'
35° 56.83'

14° 19.06'
14° 19.36'
14° 19.66'
14° 19.36'
14° 19.06'

Waiting Anchorage

Latitude (N)**Longitude (E)**

35° 51.60'
35° 51.60'
35° 50.00'
35° 50.00'

14° 38.60'
14° 42.00'
14° 42.00'
14° 38.60'

Valletta Port approaches

Latitude**Longitude**

A (Shore)	035° 54'.103	N 014° 30'.952	E
1	035° 57'.180	N 014° 32'.352	E
2	035° 54'.477	N 014° 35'.050	E
B (Shore)	035° 53'.945	N 014° 31'.386	E

Comino						
Channels	<u>Latitude</u>		<u>Longitude</u>			
1	036°	00'.990	N	014°	16'.470	E
2	035°	58'.310	N	014°	19'.150	E
3	036°	01'.893	N	014°	20'.095	E
4	035°	59'.891	N	014°	22'.059	E

Oil Rig Area						
	<u>Latitude</u>		<u>Longitude</u>			
1	035°	48'.507	N	014°	28'.796	E
2	035°	48'.503	N	014°	30'.008	E
3	035°	47'.998	N	014°	28'.800	E
4	035°	47'.999	N	014°	30'.020	E

Marsaxlokk Port						
Approaches	<u>Latitude</u>		<u>Longitude</u>			
C Shore	035°	49'.204	N	014°	33'.708	E
1	035°	47'.987	N	014°	37'.777	E
2	035°	45'.064	N	014°	33'.662	E
D Shore	035°	48'.470	N	014°	32'.147	E

(2) **Malta VTS:** The territorial waters (12 nautical miles from nearest shore) excluding the designated Ports VTS areas mentioned above.

CONTACT DETAILS

Valletta VTS:

Vessels bound for Valletta, designated Ports VTS Areas and other destinations in Malta other than Marsaxlokk:

Call: Valletta Port Control
VHF Frequency: Ch 12 16
 Telephone: +356 22 914651
 Fax: +356 22 914419
 E-mail: vts@mma.gov.mt

Vessels bound for Marsaxlokk:

Call: Marsaxlokk Port Control
VHF Frequency: Ch 14 16
 Telephone: +356 22 914652
 Fax: +356 22 914419
 E-mail: vts@mma.gov.mt

Malta VTS:

Call: Malta VTS
VHF Frequency: Ch 69, 16
 RT Frequency (kHz): 2182 (Malta Radio listening watch)
 Telephone: +356 22494202
 +356 22494206
 +356 22494207
 Fax: +356 21 809860
 Telex: +406 1489
 E-mail: opsroom.afm@gov.mt

HOURS of Service: H24

Procedure

Participation in the Malta VTS and Valletta VTS is **compulsory** for all vessels regardless of size.

Vessels calling to receive a service outside port shall call Valletta Port Control for instructions.

Unless otherwise instructed by Valletta VTS (Valletta Port Control or Marsaxlokk Port Control as applicable), vessels approaching Valletta port shall enter or leave between coordinates Lat 035° 57'.180. Long. 014° 32'.352 and Lat 35° 54'.477 Long 014° 35'.050. Vessels approaching Marsaxlokk port shall enter or leave between coordinates Lat 035° 47'.987. Long. 014° 37'.777 and Lat 35° 45'.064 Long 014° 33'.662

For other designated areas or anchorages within the VTS area as instructed by Valletta VTS.

Reporting Points

Inbound

Vessels should call Valletta Port Control or Marsaxlokk Port Control as follows:

1. Vessels approaching port from any direction

At least 2 hours before arrival at pilot station and
½ hour before arrival at pilot station, or as directed by VTS
When Pilot embarked
When entering port
On berthing
When Pilot disembarked

2. Vessels for bunkering/waiting area or conveyance operations

At least 2 hours before arrival at pilot station and
½ hour before arrival bunkering/waiting area or conveyance position or as
directed by VTS
On anchoring in bunkering /waiting area or on arrival at conveyance position.

Outbound

1. When departing from port

When Pilot embarked
Prior to and on clearing berth
When leaving port
When Pilot disembarked

3. Vessels departing from bunkering/waiting area or conveyance position

On weighing anchor in bunkering/waiting area or departing conveyance
position

Information Broadcasts

Navigational and weather information broadcasts are made by Valletta VTS on VHF Channel 11 at 0703 hrs, 1103 hrs 1703 hrs 2303 hrs (UTC) and any other time when deemed necessary.

International Marine VHF Channels

These are the International Marine VHF Channels, as used by the Malta Vessel Traffic Services.

- 1 Unless otherwise instructed vessels are to use VHF Channel 16 for Initial Calling, and for Distress and Safety Calling. Once contact is established, the station called will nominate a Working Channel on which the contact is then continued.
- 2 Ship to ship communication is to be made on VHF Channels other than the above or as directed by VTS.
- 3 Where possible vessels should use "low-power" (1 watt) to reduce the range of the signal so as to prevent the channel being cluttered and helps other people access it.

Channel 70 is exclusively for DSC calling for safety and emergency and must not be used for other purposes.

Owners, Agents, Operators and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the Masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

	VHF Channel
Valletta VTS	Ch 12
Marsaxlokk VTS	Ch 14
AFM Coastal VTS	Ch 69
Navigational assistance/ Special instructions to a ship specific	Ch 20
Navigational warnings/Weather Broadcasts	Ch 11
Emergency Ops/Oil Pollution etc	Ch 22
Pilotage and mooring (MMP) and Pilot Launch	Ch 09
Towage (Tug working channels	Ch 68 Ch 74 Ch 10
Terminals/Marinas	Ch 13