



Transport Malta

PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

PORT NOTICE NO 05/16

Our Ref: TM/PYD/74/02

**To: Ship Agents
Ship Operators
Terminal Operators
Ships' Masters
Ships' Crew**

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Safety Alert

Heaving Lines - Use of Inappropriate Weighing Material

Mariners are hereby advised that the practice of weighting heaving lines with infills of metal and like objects poses a significant risk of injury and is therefore not permissible. Monkey's fist or similar may be used to weight the line for throwing. To prevent personal injury, the "fist" should be made only with rope and should not contain added weighting material. Safe alternatives include a small high-visibility soft pouch, filled with fast-draining pea shingle or similar, with a weight of not more than 0.5kg. Under no circumstances should other weights, such as shackles or other heavy objects, be tied to the end of heaving lines.

Prior to throwing a heaving line, the vessel's mooring party should alert the linesmen, mooring boat and/or tug crew and anyone else in the vicinity that a line is about to be thrown. The operation should only proceed if the area where the heaving line will land is clear of personnel.

Mariners are reminded that in terms of the legislative framework in place, all mooring services to vessels calling Maltese waters shall at all times be under the supervision, control and regulation of the Authority.

Any occurrence of such equipment being used improperly may result in prosecution.

Capt David Bugeja
Chief Officer
Ports and Yachting Directorate

08 July 2016