



Transport Malta

PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

Port Notice Number 01/16

Our Ref: TM/PYD/90/01 VII

To: Commercial vessel Owners and Operators
Commercial vessel Masters and Crew
Surveyors

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Commercial Vessels – Radar and Navigational Aids

The attention of all Surveyors, Owners, Operators, Masters and Crew of commercial vessels is hereby being directed to the Code of Practice for the Safety of Vessels, issued in terms of the Commercial Vessels Regulations (S.L. 499.23).

As per Article 22.3.1 of this Code, a commercial vessel should be provided with the following additional equipment:

1. An electronic navigational positioning system appropriate to the area of operation;
2. A distance measuring log;
3. A gyro compass or spare magnetic compass;
4. A rudder angle indicator;
5. 9 GHz radar; and
6. Binoculars.

The above applies to all commercial vessels unless an exemption has been requested and granted.

Further to the above, the Authority has recently been informed that some commercial vessel owners and operators may have opted for Broadband 9GHz (using low power output and specific signal properties) radars, being offered in the leisure yachting industry instead of the conventional 9 GHz X-Band pulse radar. Carriage of the 9 GHz X-Band pulse radar capable of triggering SART transponders and beacons is obligatory on board SOLAS vessels and non-convention commercial vessels.

The Authority takes the opportunity to remind that all the provisions of the applicable legislation as well of the other Port Notices in force affecting commercial vessel operations must be observed and complied with at all times.

In the event of any non-compliance with the above, clearance for any commercial operation may be withheld, without prejudice to other legal and enforcement action that may be taken.

This Port Notice shall come into force on the 23rd of March, 2016.

Dr Robert Vassallo
Legislation and Compliance Manager

23rd March 2016