



Transport Malta

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Ports and Yachting Directorate

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Port Notice No 06/2014

**Notice to: Operators
Owners
Masters of Commercial Vessels**

Fitting of Automatic Identification System (AIS) equipment on commercial vessels employed in conveyance and transfer of personnel at sea

Transport Malta would like to notify owners, operators and Masters of Commercial Vessels that with effect from 1st December 2014 all vessels, including service launches, conveyance boats and work boats, involved in conveyance operations and transfer of personnel will be required to be fitted with Automatic Identification System (AIS) equipment.

The purpose of this requirement is to assist VTS Personnel in monitoring and coordinating the movements of maritime traffic in order to enhance the safety of navigation and the security and the efficiency of marine operations and shipping movements; and is in line with provisions prescribed in the Commercial Vessels Regulations (S.L.499.23). The fitting of AIS will also be of benefit to both the commercial vessels and the ships being provided with the service as it will provide both with better means of identifying the respective positions.

The AIS equipment required to be fitted must be capable of transmitting and receiving AIS signals. Once fitted, the AIS equipment and transponder must be switched on and operational at all times. AIS may only be switched off in exceptional circumstances where the master considers this to be necessary in the interest of safety or security of his vessel.

As a minimum, the equipment should transmit the name, call sign, MMSI number, speed, course, position, vessel type and dimensions. The AIS equipment required must be capable of transmitting and receiving AIS signals.

Compliance with this requirement is mandatory as from the date indicated above. Non-compliance will entail the prohibition of navigation, without prejudice to other applicable penalties and legal proceedings.

**Capt David Bugeja
Chief Officer
Ports and Yachting Directorate**

10 November 2014