



Transport Malta

PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

Port Notice No 02/16

Our Ref: TM/PYD/44/09 III

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To: Marine Terminal Operators
Marine Facility Operators
Berth Operators

Mooring of Ships on Quays

The Authority has received a number of complaints relating to situations where particular berths were not deemed as safe, well prepared or adequate to receive a vessel.

The objective of this Notice is to improve mooring and berthing operations and enhance safety during such at all jetties, quays, wharves, dolphins and berths by providing Berth Operators with clear instructions regarding their obligations.

These instructions outlined in Annex 1 of this notice apply at all terminals and berths including those terminals that carry out their own mooring operations. For ease of reference, the term "quay" shall include wharf, jetty and dolphin; and "berthing" shall include also mooring.

Berth Operators are to take note of the instructions being provided and to incorporate same in their operating procedures.

Capt David Bugeja
Chief Officer
Ports and Yachting Directorate

09 April 2016



Annex 1

Mooring of Ships on Quays: Instructions to Berth Operators

- 1) Berth Operators are to appoint a designated person/s on a 24/7 basis to coordinate mooring services and to be on the quay to facilitate and oversee the mooring operations. Details of these designated Persons together with the 24/7 contact information are to be communicated to the Authority.
- 2) Any specific requirement in respect of vessel position should be made known to the Mooring Men who have a supervisory role over the mooring team and handling the hand held VHF so that they may relay the information to the Master of the vessel or the Pilot.
- 3) All equipment at the berth required for mooring should be checked before the operation commences. Any defects should be reported to the Mooring Men and, if appropriate, to the Master of the vessel or the Pilot.
- 4) All fendering should be checked prior to berthing. Where an obstruction exists on the face of the quay, its existence and location should be reported to the Master of the vessel, Pilot and the VTS.
- 5) The details and location of any damaged fendering or fendering/quay face under repair should be reported to the Master of the vessel and Pilot before the vessel berths.
- 6) Berths equipped with Shore Cranes: The Berth Operator should ensure that shore cranes are in the correct position and that booms do not protrude beyond the quay during berthing operations. Cranes not required for loading/discharging, and other potential obstructions, should be moved well clear of bridge wings and bow flare. Shore cranes should not be moved during the mooring operation, nor as the vessel approaches the berth.
- 7) It is the duty of a Berth Operator to maintain a safe work area, clear of potential hazards.
- 8) Berth Operators are to ensure that the berth dimensions and mooring arrangements are adequate to accommodate safely any ship intending to secure or work alongside.
- 9) Safe access to and from the berth should be provided.
- 10) Ladders on quays should be properly maintained and checked regularly.
- 11) At night and during poor visibility, the work area should be adequately lit.
- 12) Berth Operators are to ascertain that all persons engaged in the mooring operation should wear the full and appropriate PPE.
- 13) Lifesaving equipment should be positioned at appropriate intervals on a quay.
- 14) Disposition of mooring bollards should be such that, as far as reasonably practical and provided safety is not compromised, not more than two (2) moorings have to be placed on a bollard at any one time.
- 15) Mooring bollards should be properly and clearly marked and numbered.
- 16) Mooring bollards not available for use should be boxed over or painted red.
- 17) Mooring bollards which become unusable for whatever reason should be clearly identified and marked as out of service and should be reinstated to full serviceable condition as soon as possible.