



Transport Malta

PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

Port Notice No: 06/12

Our Ref: TM/PYD 77/04

NOTICE TO:Ship Agents

Fishing Vessels Masters/Agents /Owners/Operators

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Use of Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) by Fishing Vessels

Transport Malta wishes to bring to your attention that in terms of Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 27th June 2002 establishing a Community Vessel traffic monitoring and information system, as amended, and as transposed in local legislation by the Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Regulations (S.L. 499.34), all fishing vessels of a length of over 15m operating within Maltese internal and territorial waters or visiting local ports shall be fitted with an AIS (Class A) which meets the performance standards drawn up by the IMO, in accordance with the following time-frames:

- fishing vessels of overall length 24 metres and upwards but less than 45 metres: not later than 31st May 2012,
- fishing vessels of overall length 18 metres and upwards but less than 24 metres: not later than 31st May 2013,
- fishing vessels of overall length exceeding 15 metres but less than 18 metres: not later than 31st May 2014.

New built fishing vessels of overall length exceeding 15 metres have been subject to the AIS carrying requirement as from the 30th November 2010.

Fishing vessels equipped with AIS shall maintain it in operation at all times. In exceptional circumstances, AIS may be switched off where the master considers this necessary in the interest of safety or security of the vessel.

Charles Abela
Senior Manager
Ports & Yachting Directorate

27th February 2012