

SAFETY CHECKLIST TO BE REVIEWED BEFORE GOING OUT AT SEA



As the owner/skipper of the vessel you are responsible for the safety of all the persons on board your craft. Before venturing out at sea it is highly recommended that you go through this basic checklist which is aimed at assisting you in addressing very basic safety issues.

Questions to ask yourself before going out at sea:

- Have I checked the weather forecast?
- Have I reviewed all relevant Notices to Mariners? (Notices to Mariners can be downloaded from www.transport.gov.mt)
- Have I checked the boat for defects or damage?
- Do I have enough fuel for the trip, plus reserve?
- Do I have sufficient water and food?
- Is all the recommended safety equipment on board and in good order?
- Have I shown my passengers where the safety equipment is and how to use it?
- Have I advised a reliable person of my boating plan?
- What means of communication do I have on board in case of emergency?

A valid nautical licence, insurance policy cover and boat registration documentation should be kept on board at all times.

RECOMMENDED EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY GEAR

It is the responsibility of the Master (Person in Charge) of the boat to ensure that there is appropriate life saving equipment on board and that everyone knows how to wear and use this equipment.

- Personal Floating Devices (PFD) for all persons on board including children plus an extra of each type (that is, one for adults and one for children).
- Fire extinguisher of an appropriate size on all boats equipped with an engine.
- Waterproof First Aid kit and waterproof flashlight.
- Liferaft or dinghy.
- VHF Radio.
- GPS, fixed or handheld.
- Visual distress signals (minimum 1 orange smoke and 1 red flare)
- Bucket, bailer or bilge pump.

NB: Ensure that all equipment is within its expiry date.



OTHER SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Swimmers' Zones** - During the summer months, various areas around the Maltese Islands are designated exclusively for swimmers. Mariners are obliged to carefully review the respective Notices to Mariners issued by Transport Malta to get oneself acquainted with these zones. It is prohibited for any craft to navigate within the Swimmers' Zones, or to use the buoys and tackle of the Swimmers' Zones for mooring purposes. Launching lanes have been installed to access the beach for loading and unloading purposes only and vessels shall proceed within these areas at a 'dead slow' speed.
2. **Respect speed limits** - To ensure safety at sea, Transport Malta has established different speed limits within the Maltese Territorial Waters. Mariners are obliged to know and observe these limits.
3. **Float plan** - Develop an emergency procedure and a float plan.
4. **Alcohol** - Drinking alcohol may impair both your judgment and your ability to control your craft. No mechanically-driven craft can be driven in a dangerous or reckless manner or under the influence of alcohol.
5. **Watch** - Keep a good lookout and proceed at a safe speed at all times. Keep a careful watch for other boats, divers and swimmers and adapt your speed to the circumstances. Give reefs and shallow waters a wide berth. Use common sense and discretion.
6. **Marine VHF radio** - Always carry a VHF radio and use it responsibly. Mobile phone network coverage is not always available whilst out at sea and it is therefore highly recommended that a VHF radio is kept on board to be used in cases of emergency.
7. **Night safety procedures** - Navigational lights must be operated if the craft is operated in periods of darkness or reduced visibility.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone	
Emergency	112
Valletta Port Control	2291 4491/2
Rescue AFM	2180 9279

VHF Radio	
Valletta Port Control	Ch 12
Marsaxlokk Port Control	Ch 14
Malta VTS	Ch 69
Navigational Warnings/Weather Broadcasts	Ch 11
Distress and Safety messages	Ch 16

