



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE



Transport Malta

Port Notice No. 09 of 2025

**To: Ship Owners and Operators
Ship Agents
Ship Masters, Crewmembers and Skippers
Marine Terminals and Marine Facilities**

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Mandatory Requirements for Vessel Calls and Operations within the Territorial Waters and Ports of Malta

The Authority is hereby bringing to the attention of all concerned the minimum requirements as prescribed in the Ports and Shipping Act (Cap. 352) that stipulate that no boat or ship shall be used in the territorial waters and ports of Malta unless such boat or ship is registered and documented to the satisfaction of the Authority.

The certificates and documents listed in this Port Notice, as applicable to a particular vessel, must be valid prior to entry and throughout the whole stay. Vessels departing from a Maltese anchorage or a port must also have proper certification in place.

Additionally, this Port Notice transposes the requirements of Delegated Directive (EU) 2025/811 of 19 February 2025 amending Annex I to Directive 2002/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards information to be notified to ship reporting systems.

These minimum requirements are intended to contribute towards the safety of navigation and life at sea, preservation of good order, safeguarding third party rights and protection of the marine environment. They are not a derogation of and do not exonerate compliance with other applicable statutory requirements, including Port Notices and Notices to Mariners and lawful directions issued by the Authority from time to time.

1 Vessels of 300gt and over

- .1 Every vessel must be covered by and have on board the following valid statutory documents and certificates in line with the applicable international conventions:
 - .1 Ship certificates and documentation.
 - .2 One or more insurance certificates issued by its provider and carried on board the vessels, providing evidence of existence of insurance for maritime claims in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 2009/20/EC¹, as well as civil liability certificates issued in accordance with:

¹ Directive 2009/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the insurance of shipowners for maritime claims.



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- .1 the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution, 1992, as amended (1992 Civil Liability Convention);
 - .2 the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (2001 Bunkers Convention); and
 - .3 the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007 (2007 Nairobi WRC).
- .3 Hull and Machinery (H&M) Insurance.
 - .4 Other mandatory insurance that may be required in terms of EU legislation and/or international conventions, as applicable.
 - .5 Licences (or Certificates of Competency) of the Master and Crew.
- .2 Every vessel must be equipped with all the communications, lifesaving, distress and safety equipment and lights and signals in line with the applicable international conventions, working and not expired.
 - .3 Every vessel must be covered by the necessary clearances from all the local authorities, including Customs and Immigration.

2 Vessels under 300gt employed in any trade, business or calling and which are not duly licensed and certified in terms of the local commercial provisions

- .1 Every vessel must be covered by and have on board the following valid documents and certificates:
 - .1 Certificate of Registry issued by the Flag Administration.
 - .2 Navigation/Trading Licence/Certificate indicating the permitted area of operation (could be included in the Certificate of Registry).
 - .3 Appropriate insurance cover including but not limited to third-party liability, pollution, salvage and wreck removal.
 - .4 Port Clearance issued by the authority of the last port of call.
 - .5 Class Certificate (where applicable).
 - .6 Official logbooks including oil and garbage record books.
 - .7 IACS² related documentation (where applicable).
 - .8 PSSC³ (where applicable).
 - .9 Fishing licence (where applicable).
 - .10 Licences (or Certificates of Competency) of the Ship's Captain (Master) and Crew issued by a competent maritime authority.
 - .11 Personal identification cards or passports of the Master and crew.
 - .12 Authorisation by owner of the vessel on Master clearly showing that he is authorised to command the vessel and act in the name and on behalf of the owner.

² International Association of Classification Societies.

³ Passenger Ship Safety Certificate.



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- .13 Crew list stamped by the Immigration.
 - .14 Customs clearance.
 - .15 Appropriate and up to date navigational information (charts and nautical publications or equivalent electronic applications).
 - .16 Certificate of validity of life-saving appliances and fire-fighting system on board.
 - .2 Every vessel must be equipped with the following:
 - .1 Effective and working means of communication (VHF or GMDSS⁴ as appropriate).
 - .2 Lifesaving, distress and safety equipment, in sufficient number and not expired.
 - .3 Compliance with COLREGS⁵: All vessels should be fitted with the appropriate and working navigation lights and have on board the applicable day, night and distress signals (as applicable).
- 3 Recreational and Pleasure Craft**
- .1 Every vessel must have on board the following valid documents and certificates:
 - .1 Certificate of Registry issued by the Flag Administration.
 - .2 Insurance covering third party liability.
 - .3 Appropriate insurance including cover for pollution, salvage and wreck removal.
 - .4 Certificate of Competence of the Skipper.
 - .5 Personal identification card or passport of the Skipper.
 - .6 In the event the vessel is not being skippered by the owner, authorisation by owner of the vessel clearly showing that the Skipper is authorised to command the vessel and act in the name and on behalf of the owner.
 - .7 Immigration and Customs clearances.
 - .8 Appropriate and up to date navigational information (charts and nautical publications or equivalent electronic applications).
 - .2 Every vessel must be equipped with the following:
 - .1 Effective and working means of communication (VHF).
 - .2 Lifesaving, distress and safety equipment, in sufficient number and not expired.
 - .3 Compliance with COLREGS: All vessels should be fitted with the appropriate and working navigation lights and have on board the applicable day, night and distress signals (as applicable).
- 4. Every vessel calling Maltese waters, which is subject to mandatory notification and reporting requirements, and/or liable to pay port-related dues, and/or whose ordinary course of navigation and trade is not limited to the territorial waters of Malta, must be represented by a local ship agent approved by the Authority. The Authority may also direct other vessels to be so represented as deemed necessary from time to time.**

⁴ Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

⁵ Convention on International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, as amended.



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Compliance inspections by the Authority's officers will be carried out accordingly and are without prejudice to any other inspections which may be carried by other responsible and competent persons and entities.

In the event of non-compliance with any of the above, enforcement, including prohibition of navigation, and legal action will be taken. A non-compliant vessel may also be refused entry into or expelled from Maltese territorial waters.

Port Notice 06/2018 is hereby being revoked.

Captain Fritz Farrugia
Chief Officer & Harbour Master
Ports & Yachting Directorate

04th November 2025