PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

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LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS Nº 220 of 2026

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Pest Control Measures On-Board Vessels

The Ports and Yachting Directorate of Transport Malta reminds all owners, masters, and operators of vessels regarding the importance of implementing effective pest control measures to prevent the transfer of rodents between vessels and shore facilities.

This is a statutory requirement which must be complied with, requiring masters to cause efficient rat guards to be affixed on every line, mooring rope, cable or wire connected to or reaching the shore.

Accordingly, all concerned are required to ensure that suitable rat guards are properly fitted and maintained on all applicable mooring lines whenever a vessel is berthed alongside a quay, jetty, pontoon, or any other shore structure. Regular inspections should also be carried out to ensure that rat guards remain correctly positioned and fully effective.

Additionally, all concerned are reminded to ensure that gangways are adequately illuminated during nighttime and, where practicable, raised, secured, or otherwise protected when not in active use. This helps minimise the risk of rodents gaining access to vessels from shore.

Compliance with these requirements greatly contributes to safeguarding public health, protecting port infrastructure, and preventing the spread of pests within Maltese ports and marinas.

Failure to comply with these provisions may result in enforcement measures and penalties in accordance with the relevant legislation.