
REGISTRATION OF FISHING VESSELS UNDER THE MALTA FLAG

Following the recent adoption of new international agreements on fisheries, the Merchant Shipping Directorate is reviewing its procedure on the registration of fishing vessels under the Malta flag.

Henceforth, prior to provisional registration of a fishing vessel, applicants may be required to inform the Directorate of the areas where they are to fish and to produce evidence that they will be duly authorised by the appropriate authorities to carry out fishing operations.

Owners and prospective owners of fishing vessels registered under the Malta flag are advised that:

- (a) fishing operations in the territorial and fishing waters of Malta may only be carried out under the authority of a fishing licence issued by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- (b) fishing operations in the exclusive economic zone and territorial seas of any other State may only be carried out under the authority of the relative permission issued by the appropriate Administration of that State; and
- (c) fishing operations on the high seas may only be carried out under the authority of a fishing licence issued by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Malta.

Owners and prospective owners of Maltese fishing vessels should note that registration of their vessels under the Malta flag does not guarantee authorisation to carry out fishing operations. Requests for the issue of such licences or permits may be denied, or may be granted subject to any conditions deemed necessary.

Registered owners of fishing vessels which are already flying the Malta flag are, within one month from the date of this Notice, to forward the Directorate details of the areas where they are presently carrying out fishing operations and the original, or a certified copy, of the relative authorisation as detailed above. Thereafter, any changes are to be immediately notified to the Directorate.

Finally, it should be noted that strict measures including closure of registry may be taken for failure to be in constant compliance with the requirements set out in this Notice.