



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS No 093 OF 2019

Our Ref: **TM/PYD/0001/19**

25 July 2019



Transport Malta

Malta Transport Centre
Marsa, MRS 1917
Malta

Tel: (356) 2122 2203
Fax: (356) 2125 0365
Email: info.tm@transport.gov.mt

www.transport.gov.mt

Misuse of distress signals

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta notifies that, in line with the Convention on the international Regulations Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, the International Aeronautical and the Maritime Search and Rescue Manual, Volume III, the use or exhibition of any of the foregoing signals except for the purpose of indicating distress and need of assistance and the use of other signals which may be confused with any of the below signals is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

The following signals used or exhibited either together or separately, indicate distress and need of assistance:

- (a) a gun or other explosive signals fired at intervals of about a minute;
- (b) a continuous sounding with any fog-signalling apparatus;
- (c) rocket or shell, throwing red stars fired one at a time at short intervals;
- (d) a signal made by any signalling method consisting of a group ...---... (SOS) in Morse Code;
- (e) a signal sent by radiotelephony consisting of the spoken word "MAYDAY";
- (f) the international Code Signal of distress indicated by N.C.;
- (g) a signal consisting of a square flag having above or below it a ball or anything resembling a ball;
- (h) flames on the vessel (as from a burning tar barrel, oil barrel, etc.);
- (i) a rocket parachute flare or a hand-flare showing a red light;
- (j) a smoke signal giving off orange-coloured smoke;
- (k) slowly and repeatedly raising and lowering arms outstretched to each side;
- (l) a distress alert by means of a digital selective calling (DSC) transmitted on:
 - (i) VHF channel 70 on
 - (ii) MF/HF [n the frequencies 2187.5 kHz, 8414.5 kHz, 4207.5 kHz, 6312 kHz, 12577 kHz or 16804.5 kHz;
- (m) a ship-to shore distress alert transmitted by the ship's inmarsat or other mobile satellite service provider of ship earth station;
- (n) signals transmitted by emergency position-indicating radio beacons;



Transport Malta

- (o) approved signals transmitted by radio communications systems, including survival craft radar transponders;
- (p) a piece of orange-coloured canvas with either a black square and circle or other appropriate symbol (for identification from the air);
- (q) a dye marker.

The use of the above signals or the use of other signals which may be confused with any of the above signals for reasons that **DO NOT** relate to indicating distress and need of assistance, are to be pre-notified to the Port Authority accordingly.