



Transport Malta

PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

NOTICE TO MARINERS No 39 of 2025

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Malta Vessel Traffic Services and Use of International Marine VHF Channels

All mariners are reminded that in terms of the Authority for Transport in Malta Act (Cap 499), it is the function of the Authority for Transport in Malta (Authority) to exercise overall control for the preservation of good order in the territorial and inland waters of Malta; and to provide, operate and maintain in ports and in port approaches adequate and efficient services and facilities for the proper, safe and efficient functioning of such ports.

In pursuance to these functions, Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) in terms of the Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Reporting Requirements Regulations (S.L. 499.34) (Regulations) have been established. VTS contribute to the safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment. The competent authority for the implementation of these Regulations, and the exercise of the abovementioned functions including the provision of VTS, is the Authority through its Ports and Yachting Directorate in its functions of a port authority; whilst the Armed Forces of Malta are the Malta VTS responsible to monitor shipping and receive information in terms of these Regulations.

The operational centres in operation to provide VTS are as follows:

- **VALLETTA VTS and MARSAXLOKK VTS** operated by the Authority to regulate the movement of vessels within and between ports, in the approaches to a port and within territorial waters when carrying out maritime activities. Traffic Organisation Services and Information Services are also provided. A Navigational Assistance Service is provided on request or when deemed necessary.
- **Malta VTS (MALTA VTS)** operated by the Armed Forces of Malta is responsible to monitor shipping and to receive vessel information within territorial waters, excluding Valletta VTS, Marsaxlokk VTS and other VTS designated areas. In terms of Regulation 8 of the Regulations, Malta VTS may request additional information even from ships beyond the territorial waters.



In addition, the authority has established a Local Port Service at Mgarr port in Gozo namely:

- **Mgarr LPS (MGARR PORT/LPS)** operated by the Authority to assist with the coordination of movement of vessels entering or leaving harbour, including vessels anchoring outside Mgarr for the purpose of ferrying people to Gozo.

Participation in the Malta VTS and Valletta VTS and Marsaxlokk VTS is MANDATORY for all vessels regardless of type, size and operations. Participation in Mgarr LPS is mandatory for vessels engaged in commercial activities however participation is recommended for any other vessel entering or leaving Mgarr port.

(1) VTS Areas

(i) Valletta VTS and Marsaxlokk VTS

The Valletta VTS and Marsaxlokk VTS are made up of primarily the ports and the port approaches, and the designated VTS Areas.

The designated VTS Areas are enclosed by the following WGS 84 DATUM co-ordinates:

Bunkering Area 1

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
36° 01'.730	014° 22'.560
36° 01'.730	014° 23'.460
36° 00'.824	014° 24'.931
36° 00'.617	014° 24'.739
36° 00'.119	014° 25'.425
35° 59'.557	014° 26'.088
35° 59'.610	014° 26'.510
35° 59'.660	014° 26'.510
35° 59'.230	014° 23'.760
36° 01'.730	014° 22'.560

Bunkering Area 3

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 54'.930	014° 44'.560
35° 54'.933	014° 48'.763
35° 51'.930	014° 48'.760
35° 51'.930	014° 44'.560
35° 53'.031	014° 44'.560
35° 53'.029	014° 44'.869
35° 54'.093	014° 46'.584

Bunkering Area 2

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 52'.522	014° 35'.421
35° 53'.041	014° 35'.063
35° 53'.317	014° 35'.443
35° 52'.768	014° 35'.828
35° 52'.522	014° 35'.421

**Area 3 is divided into two sectors:
East Sector and West Sector at
Longitude (E) 014° 47.000'**

**LADEN TANKERS TO USE
EAST SECTOR ONLY**



35° 54'.502	014° 46'.010
35° 53'.511	014° 44'.658
35° 53'.510	014° 44'.560
35° 54'.930'	014° 44'.560

Bunkering Area 4

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 50'.630	014° 35'.960
35° 49'.165	014° 35'.960
35° 49'.371	014° 35'.763
35° 49'.371	014° 35'.462
35° 49'.211	014° 35'.268
35° 49'.040	014° 35'.269
35° 48'.936	014° 35'.327
35° 48'.940	014° 34'.860
35° 50'.630	014° 35'.960

Waiting Area Anchorage

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 51'.600	014° 41'.930
35° 51'.600	014° 45'.330
35° 50'.000	014° 45'.330
35° 50'.000	014° 41'.930

Valletta Port Approaches

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 55'.731	014° 29'.564
35° 55'.728	014° 29'.674
35° 55'.032	014° 31'.375
35° 57'.180	014° 32'.352
35° 54'.477	014° 35'.050
35° 54'.178	014° 32'.989
35° 53'.430	014° 33'.247
35° 53'.310	014° 32'.971

Comino Channels

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
36° 00'.990	014° 16'.470
35° 58'.310	014° 19'.150
36° 01'.893	014° 20'.095
35° 59'.891	014° 22'.059

Bunkering Area 6

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 57'.830	014° 19'.060
35° 57'.830	014° 19'.360
35° 57'.230	014° 19'.660
35° 56'.830	014° 19'.360
35° 56'.830	014° 19'.060
35° 57'.830	014° 19'.060

Oil Rig Area

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 48.507	014° 28.796
35° 48.503	014° 30.008
35° 47.998	014° 28.800
35° 47.999	014° 30.020

Marsaxlokk Port Approaches

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 49'.204	014° 33'.708
35° 47'.987	014° 37'.777
35° 45'.064	014° 33'.662
35° 48'.470	014° 32'.147



(ii) Mgarr LPS

No area has been designated for Mgarr harbour, however vessels entering or leaving port as well as vessels intending to anchor outside port limits with the intent to ferry passengers ashore via a tender are to notify by VHF, LPS of their arrival and intent.

(iii) Malta VTS

The areas of the Malta VTS are the territorial waters (12 nautical miles from baseline) however excluding the Valletta VTS, Marsaxlokk VTS and the VTS Areas mentioned above.

(2) Reporting Points

(i) Inbound

Vessels should call Valletta VTS or Marsaxlokk VTS as follows:

1. Vessels approaching port from any direction:

- 2 hours before arrival at pilot station
- 5 nautical miles off from pilot station
- At pilot station
- When Pilot embarks
- At the breakwater
- At berth
- When Pilot disembarks
- As otherwise directed by VTS

2. Vessels for bunkering/waiting area or conveyance operations:

- 2 hours before arrival at the designated area
- 5 nautical miles off from the designated area
- Prior to anchoring in the designated area or on arrival at conveyance position
- As otherwise directed by VTS

3. Vessels approaching Mgarr Port

- Vessel Name and/or Call Sign/Official Number
- ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival)
- Last Port of Call
- Length Overall
- Number of Passengers/Crew on board
- Your Intentions (e.g., berthing, anchoring)



(ii) Outbound

1. When departing from port:
 - When Pilot embarks
 - Prior to and on departing from berth
 - At the breakwater
 - When Pilot disembarks
 - As otherwise directed by VTS
2. When departing from bunkering/waiting area or conveyance position:
 - On weighing anchor from a designated area or departing from a conveyance position
 - As otherwise directed by VTS

Vessels departing from Mgarr Port or anchorage off harbour

- Vessel Name and/or Call Sign/Official Number
- ETA (Estimated Time of Arrival)
- Next Port of Call
- Length Overall
- Number of Passengers/Crew on board

(3) Information Broadcasts

Navigational and weather information is broadcasted by Valletta VTS on VHF Channel 11 at 0703 hours, 1103 hours, 1703 hours and 2203 hours (UTC); and any other time when deemed necessary.

(4) International Marine VHF Channels

These are the International Marine VHF Channels as used by the VTS in Malta.

1. Unless otherwise instructed, vessels are to use VHF Channel 16 for Distress and Safety Calling.
2. Ship-to-ship communication is to be made on VHF Channels other than the above, or as directed by VTS.



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3. Where possible, vessels should use “low power” (1 watt) to reduce the range of the signal so as to prevent the channel being cluttered and to help other people access it.

(5) Contact Details

(i) Valletta VTS: (Vessels bound for Valletta, designated Ports VTS Areas and other destinations in Malta other than Marsaxlokk)

Call:	Valletta VTS
VHF Frequency:	Channel 12
Telephone:	+356 2555 4491
E-mail:	mts.tm@transport.gov.mt
Hours of Service:	H24

(ii) Vessels bound for Marsaxlokk

Call:	Marsaxlokk VTS
VHF Frequency:	Channel 14
Telephone:	+356 2555 4492
E-mail:	mts.tm@transport.gov.mt
Hours of Service:	H24

(iii) Vessels bound for Mgarr

Call Sign:	Mgarr LPS
VHF Frequency:	Channel 10
Telephone:	+356 2125 5071
Email:	mgarrportcontrol.tm@transport.gov.mt
Hours of Service:	H24

(iv) Malta VTS

Call:	Malta VTS
VHF Frequency:	Channel 69, 16
RT Frequency (kHz):	2182 (Malta Radio listening watch)
Telephone:	+356 2249 4202 +356 2249 4208
E-mail:	opsroom.afm@gov.mt
Hours of Service:	H24



(6) Procedure

Vessels calling to receive a service within territorial waters but outside port shall call Valletta VTS for instructions.

Unless otherwise instructed by Valletta VTS (or Marsaxlokk VTS, as applicable), vessels approaching Valletta Harbour shall enter or leave between the following coordinates:

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 57'.180	014° 32'.352
35° 54'.477	014° 35'.050

Vessels approaching Marsaxlokk Port shall enter and leave between the following coordinates:

Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)
35° 47'.987	014° 36'.777
35° 45'.064	014° 33'.662

For other designated areas or anchorage as instructed by Valletta VTS.

Channel 70 is exclusively for DSC calling for safety and emergency and must not be used for other purposes.

Owners, Agents, Operators and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to Masters and crew, or other persons in charge of their vessels.

VHF Channel ¹	Purpose of Communication
Channel 09	Pilotage and Mooring and Pilot Launch (pilots do not keep a listening watch on this channel unless it is being used as a working channel)
Channel 10	Mġarr Local Port Service (LPS) (The use of Channel 10 for Mġarr LPS, Gozo is on a primary basis)
Channel 10	Towage (The use of Channel 10 for Towage is on a secondary basis)
Channel 11	Navigational Warnings / Weather Broadcasts
Channel 12	Valletta VTS
Channel 13	Terminals and Marinas
Channel 14	Marsaxlokk VTS

¹ These channels correspond to the international maritime mobile frequencies in the VHF band, as defined in the General Authorisations (Radiocommunications Apparatus) Regulations (S.L. 399.40).



Channel 20	Navigational Assistance / Special instructions to a specific ship during Onshore Power Supply Operations & Management
Channel 22	Emergency Operations / Oil Pollution, etc
Channel 68	Towage
Channel 69	Malta VTS (AFM)
Channel 74	Towage

All mariners are to note the above and use the appropriate channels as designated in this Notice and in accordance with national law¹.

Notice to Mariners No. 35 of 2008 and Notice to Mariners No. 20 of 2021 are hereby **CANCELLED**.