



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE



Transport Malta

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS N° 115 of 2025

Our Ref: **TM/PYD/ 90/01 VII**

11 July 2025

Malta Transport Centre,
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Malta

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Noise levels onboard commercial vessels

This Notice is to be read in conjunction with the following Notices:

- Notice to Mariners N° 09 of 2023 - LIFE Arċipelagu Garnija Project – Restriction areas around Malta
- Notice to Mariners N° 18 of 2024 - Restricted Area between Ponta tal-Aħrax and Daħlet ix-Xilep
- Port Notice 06/2025 on Boat Parties and Noise Levels on board Commercial Vessels

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta, reminds all operators, masters, and crew of commercial vessels of the provisions of the Code of Practice for the Safety of Commercial Vessels dealing with noise and loud music onboard such commercial vessels. These provisions have been established to safeguard the safety of navigation and operations of the vessel by ensuring that all communications onboard are not impaired **at any time**; and to take into consideration the social and environmental obligations by ensuring that no nuisance is caused especially in areas which are noise sensitive. These provisions are to be complied with **at all times**.

Furthermore, all operators, masters and crew are hereby notified that the following procedures must be complied with **at all times** with respect to the organisation of boat parties on board commercial vessels:

1. A formal written approval must be sought from the Authority's Port Operations via email on portoperations.tm@transport.gov.mt, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. It must be requested at least 24 hours before the start of scheduled activity.
 - ii. The required permits to hold the activity must be in hand and submitted to the Authority together with the request for approval.



- iii. The names and contact numbers of the Master and of a second contact person on board the vessel must be provided.
- iv. Noise¹ and music levels shall be controlled so that they do not cause any disturbance and nuisance to other persons in the vicinity or impair in any manner the effective communications by and with the vessel at any time.
- v. Music must be stopped by 2300 hours.
- vi. Sound checks in port, bays or harbours is not permitted.
- vii. This approval should be kept on board the vessel.
- viii. Prior entering any port, harbour or bay, authorisation shall be obtained from Valletta VTS.

Commercial boat parties operating in close proximity to residential areas and/or in ports, harbours, or environmentally sensitive bays shall adhere to strict noise control measures at all times. In such areas, amplified music or sound systems shall be reduced to minimal levels that do not cause disturbance or nuisance to residents or the public in general. Additional measures may also be imposed to uphold social and environmental obligations and to preserve the amenity of noise-sensitive locations.

Operators, masters and crew are to keep watch on VHF Channel 16/12 and cooperate with the enforcement officers in the area and with Valletta VTS and comply with all instructions and directions given.

Enforcement action will be taken accordingly in the event of any non-compliance.

¹**Noise:** - is unwanted sound considered unpleasant, loud or disruptive to hearing, it shall, amongst others, include horns, sirens, whistles, rackets, shouting, jeering, drums and other sources.

Local Notice to Mariners N° 086 of 2024 of Transport Malta is hereby **CANCELLED**.