



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

Transport Malta

Port Notice No. 05 of 2026

**To: Operators of Marine Terminals and Marine Facilities
Operators of Marinas and Yachting Centres
Emergency Response Planning Consultants
Ship Owners and Operators
Ship Masters and Crew
Ship Agents
Pollution Response Service Providers**

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Emergency and Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response: Contingency Planning Guidelines for Marine Terminals, Marine Facilities, Marinas and Yachting Centres

The Authority for Transport in Malta would like to notify all concerned that, further to the provisions of Port Notice 16 of 2020, revised Guidelines have been published under the national legal framework governing pollution and emergency preparedness and response, as applicable to Marine Terminals, Marine Facilities, Marinas and Yachting Centres.

This legal framework comprises the Dangerous Cargo Ships, Marine Terminals and Facilities and Bunkering Regulations (S.L.499.12); the Yachting Centres Regulations (S.L. 499.10); and the Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Regulations (S.L. 499.69).

All concerned are hereby advised that the above-mentioned Guidelines are mandatory and have the force of law, and are the following:

- Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response Contingency planning Guidelines for Marine Terminals and Marine Facilities.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Contingency planning Guidelines for Marine Terminals and Marine Facilities.
- Emergency and Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response Contingency planning Guidelines for Marinas and Yachting Centres.

These mandatory Guidelines shall come into force on 15 June 2026 and compliance therewith is obligatory as from this date.

The purpose of these new and revised Guidelines is to further enhance the provisions of the National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan and Emergency Response mechanisms by providing Ports, Marine Terminals, Marine Facilities, Marinas and Yachting Centres with a structured framework to develop their respective new or updated contingency plans.

The requirements set out in the aforementioned Guidelines include, but are not limited to:



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1. The carrying out of detailed risk assessments, taking into account all risks arising from operational, situational, and geographical conditions in and around the Port, Marine Terminal, Facility, Marina or Yachting Centre;
2. The development of well-structured contingency plans, including where applicable, the information highlighted in the Guidelines as well as other supporting information and documents, pertinent to the site, its operation, and the contingency plans being established;
3. The development of clear and structured procedures (Action Plans) based on the information highlighted in the contingency plan, addressing the risks identified through the risk assessments which are not fully mitigated by existing control measures, or which require further response actions. These procedures shall be accessible, clearly understood by all responders, and capable of being easily referenced and followed during an incident;
4. The provision of the appropriate training to personnel in relation to the risks identified through the risk assessment, the measures in place to mitigate these risks, and the arrangements to be followed should these mitigation measure fail or prove to be insufficient;
5. The communication of the established provisions made in these mitigation measures to visitors, contractors and users of the Port, Marine Terminal, Marine Facility, Marina or Yachting Centre;
6. The conduct of drills and exercises at regular intervals, that reflect real scenarios and test the procedures and training, provided for in mitigation measures and contingency plans;
7. The maintenance of up-to-date and well documented, essential details, contact points, checklists, charts, resources and agreements, that support the contingency plans; and
8. The maintenance of document controls and revision history, ensuring that documentation is properly reviewed and updated whenever required.

The Guidelines can be obtained from the Authority's website (www.transport.gov.mt) or through an email request on response.tm@transport.gov.mt.

In line with the above, all Marine Terminals, Marine Facilities, Marinas and Yachting Centres are required to assess their current level of preparedness, conduct the necessary risk assessments, and update or develop contingency plans in accordance with the directives and timeframes communicated by the Authority.

All concerned are hereby advised that any non-compliance or non-adherence with these mandatory Guidelines may result in enforcement and legal action being taken. This may also include the non-approval of any contingency plan, or the suspension or revocation of any prior approval.

f/Captain Fritz Farrugia
Chief Officer & Harbour Master
Ports & Yachting Directorate

5th June 2026