



Merchant Shipping Directorate



## LITHIUM – ION BATTERY FIRES ON BOARD VESSELS

### *Information Notice 45*

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the MSIU safety alert [01/2022](#). This safety alert highlights the potential fire hazards associated with Lithium ion (Li-ion) cells and batteries.

A review of available literature and data generated by various safety investigations, reveal the fierce intensity of Li-ion battery fires, but also the potential serious challenges to control and extinguish them with the use of conventional fire-extinguishing systems. The Marine Safety Investigation Unit (MSIU) has been notified of several fires on board yachts and cargo vessels associated with Li-ion batteries, to which various investigation reports were published. Therefore, attention is also drawn to the following investigation reports [16/2019](#), [21/2021](#) and [13/2022](#).

To this effect, owners, and managers of Maltese registered vessels, must ensure that procurement of Li-ion batteries intended for vessel's use, includes safety and technical data on:

- Protection, handling, safe use, safe storage, and safe disposal
- Fault / failure detection and required actions;
- and suppressing, extinguishing and post-fire management.

All concerned are strongly recommended to bring this Notice and the safety alert report to the attention of all crew serving onboard Maltese registered vessels and follow the recommendations contained therein.

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