



Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

## **MERCHANT SHIPS NAVIGATING IN SEA AREAS AND CALLING PORTS HAVING HIGH SECURITY TENSION**

### ***Merchant Shipping Notice 195***

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

The Directorate draws the attention of all concerned to Merchant Shipping Notices 179/186 and 187; and reiterates the recommendations within.

Currently the safety and security of sea areas including the Levantine Sea, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and ports within, is very volatile due to increased military tensions. All ships operating in these sea areas are to note all security and advisory notices issued by the multinational cooperation centres and maintain good communications before proceeding. Ships are advised to consider avoiding navigating in these areas, at least until the situation de-escalates, given the elevated risks and possibility of collateral threats.

Masters and operators of Maltese ships that operate or may operate in these areas are strongly advised to evaluate the local security circumstances to determine whether their presence in the area is safe. To this effect, if ship masters and operators of Maltese ships, in their judgment, deem it necessary to proceed to these areas, they are strongly advised to proceed with utmost caution and in a high state of vigilance.

It is crucial that all ships apply the required precautionary measures for ensuring the safety of their crew and assets.

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20 June 2025

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Merchant Shipping Directorate  
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Transport Malta is the Authority for Transport in Malta set up by Act XV of 2009