





Merchant Shipping Directorate



18th RUSSIA SANCTIONS PACKAGE

Merchant Shipping Notice 196

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

The Merchant Shipping Directorate wishes to draw the attention of all concerned to the 18th package of restrictive measures adopted by the Council of the European Union to respond to actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

Within the existing framework for sanctions, the restrictive measures have, inter alia, been extended to cover additional individuals and entities. Further vessels were also added to the list of those subject to a port access ban and ban on provision of a broad range of services related to maritime transport. This package also includes new sanctions against Belarus.

The new restrictive measures have lowered the Oil Price Cap for crude oil from 60 to 47.6 USD and has introduced a mechanism for its review in the future. Through the new system, the cap should be 15% lower than the average market price for crude oil in the previous period of six months.

The measures introduce an import ban on refined oil products derived from Russian crude oil. There have also been full-fledged listings, asset freezes, travel bans throughout the shadow fleet value chain targeting both Russian and international companies. These measures also designate a captain of a shadow fleet vessel as well as an operator of a flag registry.

All those concerned, including owners of ships registered in Malta, shipping organisations established in Malta or operating Maltese ships and masters of Maltese ships are requested to comply with these measures at all times and to extend their full cooperation for their effective enforcement. The shipping community is reminded, without prejudice, that the use of Maltese ships in any such violation may be considered as being against the interest of Malta and of Maltese shipping and may lead, inter alia, to the imposition of penalties and closure of the registry.

The relevant legal acts and further information are available on https://smb.gov.mt/news/latest-news-on-sanctions-imposed-under-the-ukraine-territorial-integrity-regime/.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

25 July 2025

Malta Transport Centre Ħal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360

Email: mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration

