

MALTA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT SHIPPING DIRECTORATE

Notice to Shipowners, Owners' representatives,  
Classification Societies and Flag State Inspectors

*MSD Notice No 11*

## SEAWORTHINESS OF SHIPS OF 25 YEARS AND OVER

The Merchant Shipping Directorate is in the process of reviewing its policy with regards to Maltese ships which are above the world age average.

Earlier this year the system has been introduced whereby ships of 20 years and over would have to be inspected by an authorised flag state inspector before or within one month of provisional registration. Shipowners' local representatives are by now quite familiar with the system and at this stage it does not appear that there is the need to go into related procedure.

The need is now felt to introduce better safeguards to establish the seaworthiness of ships of 25 years and over.

As from 1 June 1995 the seaworthiness of a ship over 25 years and over for the purposes of the Merchant Shipping Act, particularly section 12(a), will be closely linked to:

- (a) the ship being in class with a recognised classification society;
- (b) the receipt of an up to date class survey status report;
- (c) the receipt of an affirmation by the relative class that the ship is in a position to be issued with all the relative statutory certificates without recommendations, once the Maltese administration has authorised the issue of such certificates; and
- (d) the outcome of an inspection by an authorised flag state inspector; the Directorate may require the inspection to be carried out in drydock;

a sum of Lm 1,000 to cover the costs of this inspection would have to be paid to the Directorate before the flag state inspection can be authorised; in some cases there might also be further charges for additional costs for travel, further inspections, etc, not covered by this amount.

The final decision on the seaworthiness or otherwise of the ship will remain at the discretion of the Directorate.

Merchant Shipping Directorate  
Valletta

2 May 1995