

MALTA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT SHIPPING DIRECTORATE

Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers, Owners'
representatives,
Ship Masters and Flag State Inspectors

This Notice revokes MSD Notice No.6

MSD Notice No 13

MINIMUM SAFE MANNING CERTIFICATES FOR MALTESE SHIPS

The 1974/78 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS 74/78) makes it mandatory for trading ships of 500 gross tonnage and over to carry, at all times, a valid Minimum Safe Manning (MSM) Certificate issued by the ship's Flag State.

In order to ensure and at the same time facilitate evermore compliance by Maltese trading ships of the relative SOLAS 74/78 provisions, the Merchant Shipping Directorate has reviewed the system outlined in MSD Notice No. 6 of October 1993 for the issuing of MSM certificates.

As from the 15 June 1996, on the entry of a ship in the Malta register, the Directorate will issue an MSM Certificate valid for five years from the date of provisional registration. Thereafter, prior to the expiry of the MSM Certificate or upon any change in the equipment, construction or use of the ship, the Directorate will issue a new MSM certificate again valid for five years always to coincide with the date of the renewal of registry.

Needless to say the MSM Certificate will cease to be valid in the event of any change in the equipment, construction or use of the ship which effect the stipulated manning, and on closure of registry.

It is important that all the information required for the issuance of a MSM Certificate is made available to the Directorate concurrently with the

application for provisional registration. The ship's Provisional Certificate of Malta Registry will only be released together with the MSM Certificate. It is recommended that use is made of the relative MSD form, although any other information considered relevant to the issuance should also be submitted.

In deciding manning requirements the Directorate will consider the relevant information relating to the ship and the guidelines incorporated in IMO Resolution A481 (XII). In the event of any disagreement the Directorate will consider any views put forward and revise it if justified. In such cases it may be necessary to arrange for some form of practical demonstration of the ability of the crew to carry out the essential tasks in the principles of safe manning.

In accordance with the Directorate's usual practices, fees will be charged for these services.

Any questions should be addressed to the Merchant Shipping Directorate.

Finally, it is pertinent to point out that -

- all officers serving on board Maltese trading vessels must be in possession of a recognised valid certificate of competency issued in satisfaction of the 1978 STCW Convention; the original should be kept on board; and
- the Directorate must be kept fully informed of the crew on board a Maltese registered ship by regularly forwarding a copy of the ship's crew list to the Directorate.

Merchant Shipping Directorate
Valletta

1 June 1996