

MALTA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT SHIPPING DIRECTORATE

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers,
and Owners' representatives, Ship Masters and Classification Societies*

MSD Notice No 26

Implementation of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention.

The International Safety Management (ISM) Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention adopted by IMO Resolution A. 741 (18) will become mandatory for the ships listed hereunder on the 1 July 1998 by virtue of the entry into force of Chapter IX of the 1974 International Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea :

- all passenger ships, including passenger high-speed craft;
- bulk carriers, cargo high-speed craft, chemical tankers, gas carriers and oil tankers, of 500 gross tonnage and upwards.

A continuous assessment is being carried out to establish the stage of implementation of the ISM Code amongst the operators of Malta flag ships. In this respect it would be appreciated if operators of Maltese ships inform this Directorate of the stage of implementation and the expected date of certification both in respect of the Company and the Ships under their management. All communications in this respect should be addressed to the Technical Department at this Directorate.

It is extremely important that the relative information is communicated to this Directorate as soon as possible and that this is currently updated.

Ship operators are reminded of the severe repercussions ships may suffer if found not to be in compliance with the requirements of the Code after its entry into force through actions of flag and port state control, possible limitations on access to charters in certain key trading areas of the world and the possible effects on the vessel's insurance and the ship's registry.

ISM Certification in respect of both the Company and the Ship is a statutory requirement in terms of the Safety of Life at Sea Convention as is the safety construction, equipment and radio certification.

Companies are urged to intensify their efforts to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the ISM Code.

Merchant Shipping Directorate Valletta.

28th January, 1998