

MALTA MARITIME AUTHORITY

MERCHANT SHIPPING DIRECTORATE

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers,  
and Classification Societies*

*MSD Notice No 28*

**Amendments to the 1974 Solas Convention concerning the Global  
Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS ).**

The 1988 amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 Convention concerning the Global Maritime Distress Safety System entered into force on the 1 February 1992 with a transition period for full implementation by the 1 February 1999.

GMDSS regulations apply to all ships of 300 gross tonnage and over and all passenger ships on international voyages.

Authorised classification societies have been advised that the validity of all Passenger Ship Safety Certificates and Cargo Ship Safety Certificates issued to ships not in full compliance with the GMDSS requirements should not extend beyond the 31 January 1999.

In the interest of safety and in order to avoid unnecessary delays non-GMDSS vessels should be brought up to the required standards as early as possible , preferably well before the 1 February 1999 deadline.

Merchant Shipping Directorate Valletta.

11th March 1998