

## MINIMUM SAFE MANNING CERTIFICATES FOR MALTESE SHIPS

It is one of the requirements of the Safety of Life at Sea Convention that trading vessels of 500grt and over must carry, at all times, a valid Minimum Safe Manning (MSM) certificate.

In order to ensure and at the same time facilitate, compliance by Maltese trading ships of these provisions, the Merchant Shipping Directorate has reviewed the system for the issuing of MSM certificates.

Henceforth, on the entry of a ship in the Malta register, the Directorate, will, on application, issue a MSM Certificate valid for the provisional registry. On permanent registration, and thereafter, the Directorate will, on reapplication, issue an MSM certificate valid for three years to coincide with the date of the renewal of registry.

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

In deciding the manning Directorate will consider the relevant information relating to the ship and the guidelines incorporated in IMO Resolution A-181 (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.

An application for an MSM certificate should be made by the shipowner or a person authorised to act on his behalf. In order to ensure that the Directorate

has all the required information it is recommended that the application be made on the relevant form.

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

Any general questions relating to the application or the certificate and questions relating to manning should be addressed to the Merchant Shipping Directorate (Telephone +356 250360 or +356 994318).

Finally, it is pertinent to point out that:

(a) all officers serving on board Maltese trading vessels must be in possession of a valid certificate of competency issued in terms of the 1978 STCW Convention; and

(b) in terms of the Merchant Shipping Act the Directorate must be kept fully informed of the crew on board a Maltese registered ship.

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