

FLAG STATE SHIP SAFETY INSPECTIONS

1. From on or about the 12 May 1993, the Merchant Shipping Directorate will be conducting ship safety inspections on Maltese registered ships on a regular basis. To this end a network of experienced Inspectors has been put in place worldwide.
2. The purpose of these inspections is to ascertain both the general and specific operational safety and environmental pollution prevention levels of Maltese registered ships. On each inspection, the Inspector will give a copy of his Report to the master of the vessel. This Report must be retained on board together with the other ship's Official Documents.
3. To ensure that this goal is accomplished effectively and possibly without any inconvenience to normal commercial operations, shipowners, masters and officers are to provide every possible assistance to the appointed Inspectors.
4. Inspectors in the various areas will liaise with ships through the owners' local Agents, and shipowners are accordingly required to instruct their representatives to provide all necessary and reasonable assistance.
5. The cost of inspections and the provision of an Inspector to the Port where the ship is to be inspected will be funded solely from the Directorate's own resources. However, any additional exceptional requirements to enable the Inspector to proceed on board the ship, such as launch transport to a ship at anchor, or gate passes into port areas, must be efficiently arranged by and at the expense of the owner's local Agents.
6. All routine matters relating to flag state inspections are dealt with and must be directed to the Safety Coordination Unit of the Merchant Shipping Directorate (SAFCORD). The operational head of SAFCORD is the Operations Manager Ship Safety Inspectorate.
7. It is requested and expected that all concerned will make every effort towards attaining the common goal of maintaining and further enhancing the good repute of the Malta flag. The ultimate objective will still remain, however, that of ensuring safety of life at sea and the prevention of pollution to our oceans.