



***Merchant Shipping (Counting and Registration of Persons
on Board Passenger Ships) Regulations, 2002***

MSD Notice No 51

*Notice to owners, operators, managers
and masters of passenger ships*

The attention of the shipping community is drawn to the coming into force on 1 November 2002, of the *Merchant Shipping (Counting and Registration of Persons on Board Passenger Ships) Regulations, 2002*. (Legal Notice No. 149 of 2002).

These regulations prescribe that on board passenger ships registered in Malta or sailing within Maltese territorial waters, there must be a counting system to determine the number of persons boarding, disembarking and remaining on board at every landing place on the respective voyage. The process adopted by the shipowner to apply this system shall be documented as written instructions kept on board ship at all times.

The system adopted needs to be approved by the Executive Director Ports in the case of passenger ships leaving Maltese landing places, and by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen in the case of Maltese passenger ships leaving any landing place. However, in the case of Maltese passenger ships leaving any landing place in Malta approval granted by the Executive Director Ports is considered as having been granted also by the Registrar-General.

The regulations also require the appointment by the ship owner of a shore based passenger registrar who would be responsible for holding the information collected from the approved counting system and for transmitting such information to the appropriate search and rescue services in the event of an emergency or an accident. The regulations further lay down the information that should be collected and made available by the ship in respect of every passenger counted and, stipulate functional criteria that must characterise such information. Before a passenger ship leaves a landing place, the total number of persons on board at that time as determined by the approved counting system, should be communicated to the Master of the ship and to the passenger registrar.

Other specific obligations applying to ships in particular circumstances also feature in the regulations. These are by no means comprehensively covered by this Notice. Direct reference to the regulations is advisable.

Merchant Shipping Directorate
Valletta

23 August 2002