



***Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations, 2002***

***MSD Notice No 55***

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

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The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the new Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations, 2002 (L.N. 391 of 2002) published on the 24 December 2002. These regulations come into force on the 1 January 2003 and revoke the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations, 1989 (L.N. 78 of 1989).

In the main, the new regulations re-enact those provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Tonnage) Regulations, 1989 relating to the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 and to the calculation of tonnage for pleasure yachts of less than twenty-four metres in length.

Furthermore, the 2002 Regulations simplify the tonnage requirements for ships of less than twenty-four metres in length by adopting a method of tonnage computation, previously restricted to pleasure yachts of less than twenty-four metres in length, for all ships under twenty-four metres in length other than fishing vessels of more than fifteen metres length overall.

Moreover, the new regulations require the measurement for tonnage of fishing vessels between fifteen metres length overall and twenty-four metres length, to be carried out in a practically identical manner as for ships of twenty-four metres or more in length. Such fishing vessels shall comply with this requirement by the 1 January 2004.

As was the case with the 1989 Regulations, the new regulations, provide for the tonnage computation of segregated ballast oil tankers, together with the use of gross tonnage which has been ascertained under previous (pre 1989) regulations.

It should be pointed out that, with the exception of fishing vessels between fifteen metres length overall and twenty-four metres length, the new regulations do not require ships to be re-measured, provided no modifications are made to the ship such as would alter her tonnage.

Merchant Shipping Directorate  
Valletta

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