



Merchant Shipping Directorate



SAFETY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

Information Notice 29

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives and Recognised Organisations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the [Marine Safety Investigation Report No: 01/2018](#), highlighting the potential safety issues related to excessive consumption of alcohol onboard.

It is important to be reminded that Section A-VIII/1.10 of the STCW Convention, as amended, requires mandatory measures to prevent drug and alcohol abuse onboard. It establishes the maximum limit of either blood alcohol content (BAC) not greater than 0.05% or 0.25 mg/L alcohol in the breath for crew serving as Officers On Watch (OOWs). Therefore, masters must ensure that the drug and alcohol policy onboard is enforced and followed.

The Safety Investigation Report aims to establish the circumstances and safety factors of an accident as a basis to make recommendations, in order to minimize the risk of such re-occurrences. Therefore, masters and operators of Maltese registered ships are advised to follow the recommendations contained therein.

It is recommended to bring this investigation report to the attention of all crew serving onboard Maltese registered vessels and carry out occasional and unannounced alcohol tests, as deemed necessary.

Merchant Shipping Directorate

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