



Merchant Shipping Directorate



Transport Malta

MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFE OPERATION OF RO-RO PASSENGER SHIPS AND HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER CRAFT IN REGULAR SERVICE) REGULATIONS, 2019

MERCHANT SHIPPING (PORT STATE CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2019

MERCHANT SHIPPING (COUNTING AND REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ON BOARD PASSENGER SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 2019

Merchant Shipping Notice 156

*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 publication, on 20 December 2019, of three pieces of subsidiary legislation which entered into force on 21 December 2019.

The [Merchant Shipping \(Safe Operation of Ro-Ro Passenger Ships and High-Speed Passenger Craft in Regular Service\) Regulations, 2019](#) and the [Merchant Shipping \(Port State Control\) \(Amendment\) Regulations, 2019](#) transpose into Maltese law Directive (EU) 2017/2110 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 on a system of inspections for the safe operation of ro-ro passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft in regular service and amending Directive 2009/16/EC and repealing Council Directive 1999/35/EC.

The new Directive takes account of the progress made in the implementation of the port State control regime put in place by Directive 2009/16/EC. To further reduce the inspection effort and to maximise the time in which the ship or craft can be commercially exploited, whilst continuing to ensure high safety standards, vessels subject to port State control inspections were transferred to fall within the scope of Directive 2009/16/EC.

The scope of the new Directive was therefore confined, and in the case of Malta, would apply to any Maltese ships providing regular ro-ro passenger ship and high-speed passenger craft services between a port in Malta and a port in a third country. In the case of non-Maltese ro-ro passenger ships and high speed craft, the port State control Directive 2009/16/EC would apply. The latter has been amended to ensure that the content and frequency of ro-ro passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft inspections is maintained. Specific provisions for inspections and verifications of ro-ro passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft on regular service that are eligible for port State control were introduced.

The [Merchant Shipping \(Counting and Registration of Persons on Board Passenger Ships\) Regulations, 2019](#) transpose into Maltese legislation Directive (EU) 2017/2109 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 amending Council Directive 98/41/EC on the registration of persons sailing on board passenger ships operating to or from ports of the Member States of the Community and Directive 2010/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the Member States.

Directive (EU) 2017/2109 introduces amendments to Directive 98/41/EC and 2010/65/EU requiring the registration of passenger data digitally in order to make search and rescue operations in case of emergency more effective and facilitate proper management of the consequences of any accident (medical care, insurance, etc.). The amendments aim to increase legal clarity and to enhance consistency with related Union legislation.

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23 December 2019

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