



PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

LOCAL NOTICE TO MARINERS N° 069 of 2024

Our Ref: **TM/PYD/01/24**

03 July 2024



Transport Malta

Malta Transport Centre,
Triq Pantar, Hal Lija, LJA 2021
Malta

Tel: (356) 2122 2203
Fax: (356) 2125 0365
Email: info.tm@transport.gov.mt

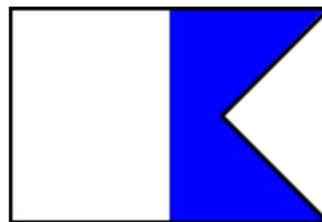
www.transport.gov.mt

Safe Distance and speed from Diver Flag signals

The Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta, reminds mariners, that every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions so as to make a full appraisal of the situation and of the risk of collision. **s.L.234.20**

In the International Code of Signals, the single letter '**A**' denotes '**I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed**'.

All vessels, including vessels less than 12 meters in length shall when carrying out diving operations, exhibit a **rigid** replica of the International Code flag '**A**' not less than 1 metre in height. Measures shall be taken to ensure its all-round visibility. **s.L.234.20**



International Code Flag
Alpha Flag – Code A
I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed.

Mariners are also reminded that 'No person shall cause, suffer or permit any mechanically driven small ship to proceed at a speed in excess of ten knots –

- (a) inside any harbour; or
- (b) in any place within 300 metres of the foreshore of any sandy beach; or
- (c) in any place within 200 metres of any other part of the foreshore (coast)'. **s.L.499.52**



Transport Malta

Divers and diving vessels engaged in diving operations shall at all times always exhibit the 'A' flag when divers are down.

All mariners are reminded that any other flag such as the Red flag with white diagonal line, which is not endorsed by the International Code of Signals also denotes the presence of a diver and to ensure that a safe distance and safe speed are maintained at all times.



In addition, SMBs - *Surface Marker Buoy* or DSMBs - *Delayed Surface Marker Buoy* signals may also be used during operations. These buoys are generally red, orange or yellow. These buoys may feature SOLAS reflective tape for better visibility. Similar to the International Code of Signals, the presence of these buoys denotes '**I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed**'.



The presence of the Alpha Flag, the Red flag with white diagonal line and SMB/DSMB, denote 'I have a diver down; keep well clear at slow speed', with a recommended safety distance of 100m.

Local Notice to Mariners No. 062 of 2024 is hereby **CANCELLED**.