



Transport Malta

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PORTS AND YACHTING DIRECTORATE

PORT NOTICE No. 05/2024

**TO: OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF PASSENGER SHIPS AND DOMESTIC PASSENGER VESSELS
MASTERS AND CREW OF PASSENGER SHIPS AND DOMESTIC PASSENGER VESSELS
MARINE TERMINALS AND MARINE FACILITIES**

COUNTING AND REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ON BOARD PASSENGER SHIPS

The Authority for Transport in Malta makes reference to Port Notice 5 of 2019 with the above subject and implementing the provisions of Directive 98/41/EC, as amended¹; and also to Port Notice 4 of 2022 regarding the Fitting of AIS Equipment on Passenger Ships² and Domestic Passenger Vessels³.

All concerned are hereby being informed that as from **25th November 2024**, the registration of all persons on board domestic passenger vessels shall be carried out through the AIS equipment installed. All persons on board shall be counted and registered on the AIS before the passenger vessel departs from a berth/landing place. The AIS must be kept continuously updated with the persons on board, following disembarkation and embarkation of passengers at every stop, and shall include the following details in terms of Port Notice 4 of 2022:

As a minimum, the AIS equipment should transmit the name, call sign, official number, MMSI number (where applicable), speed, course, position, vessel type and dimensions and the number of persons⁴ on board.

¹ Council Directive 98/41/EC of 18 June 1998 on the registration of persons sailing on board passenger ships operating to or from ports of the Member States of the Community.

² "passenger ship" shall mean a ship or a high-speed craft which carries more than 12 passengers. "High-speed craft" shall mean a high-speed craft as defined in Regulation 1 of Chapter X of the 1974 SOLAS Convention.

³ "domestic passenger vessel" means a passenger ship used in any trade, business or calling or operating for hire or reward within the ports, internal waters and territorial waters of Malta.

⁴ "persons" shall mean all people on board irrespective of age.



Transport Malta

In this respect, the Master must record, prior to every departure of the passenger vessel from a berth/landing place, the LOCODE of the destination/arrival port/berth/landing place and the number of persons on board during that particular voyage. This information must be sent on MMSI 002150200 and must be in the following format:

[LOCODE]_[POB] – for example MTMLA_96

The LOCODES to be used are those found in Annex A to this Port Notice, with a corresponding map found in Annex B. All Operators are urged to keep a copy of these Annexes on board the passenger vessel.

The transitional period in place in terms of Port Notice 5 of 2019 shall terminate on 24th November 2024. All operators are to ensure that their standard operating procedures for the counting and registration of persons are updated accordingly.

All are reminded that the AIS equipment and transponder must remain switched on and operational at all times. AIS may only be switched off in exceptional circumstances where the Master considers this to be necessary in the interest of safety or security of his vessel.

Compliance with this requirement is mandatory as from 25th November 2024. Non-compliance will result in enforcement and legal action, including the prohibition of navigation.

The provisions of this Port Notice are in additional to and not in derogation of Flag State requirements.

This Port Notice complements the requirements of Port Notice 5 of 2019. The applicability of Port Notice 03/2002 shall terminate on 24th November 2024.

**CAPTAIN FRITZ FARRUGIA
Chief Officer and Harbour Master
Ports & Yachting Directorate**

19TH NOVEMBER 2024

ANNEX A - LOCODES

Port / Bay / Area	LOCODE
Armier (all landing places)	MTARM
Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq	MTBIC
Ċirkewwa (including Paradise Bay and Marfa)	MTCKW
Comino (all landing places including Blue Lagoon, Crystal Lagoon, Santa Marija Bay and San Niklaw Bay)	MTJCO
Dahlet Qorrot (Gozo)	MTQOR
Delimara	MTDMP
Dwejra Bay (Gozo)	MTSLW
Għajn Tuffieħa	MTTUF
Għar Lapsi	MTLAP
Hondoq ir-Rummien (Gozo)	MTQAL
Marsalforn (Gozo)	MTMSF
Marsamxett Port (all landing places)	MTMSX
Marsaskala (all landing places including Marsaskala Bay and St Thomas Bay)	MTMSS
Marsaxlokk Port (all landing places)	MTMAR
Mellieħa (Għadira Bay)	MTMEL
Mġarr (Gozo)	MTMGZ
Mġarr ix-Xini (Gozo)	MTSAN
Popeye Village	MTPOP
Ramla Bay (Gozo)	MTRAM
St Julian's (all landing places including St George's Bay and St Julian's Bay)	MTSTJ
St Paul's Bay (all landing places including Bugibba, Mistra Bay, Qawra, Salina Bay and Xemxija)	MTSPB
San Blas (Gozo)	MTSNB
Valletta (Grand Harbour) (all landing places)	MTMLA
Wied iż-Żurrieq	MTZUR
Xgħajra	MTXAG
Xlendi	MTXLE

E 14-40.00

E 14-30.00

E 14-20.00

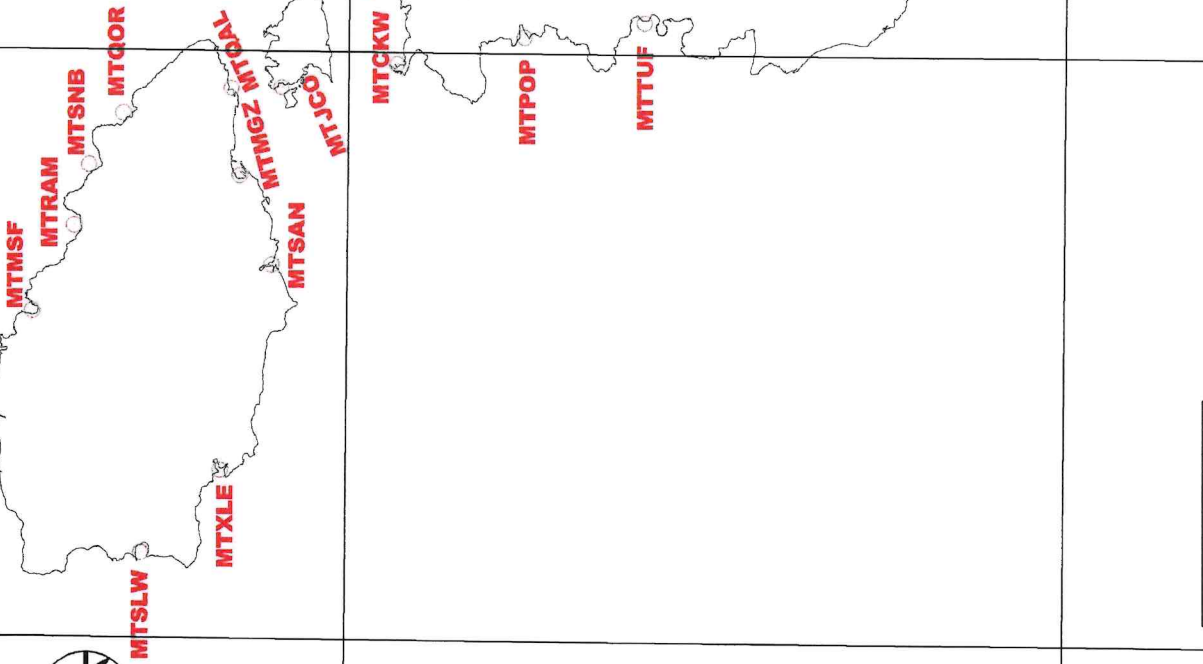
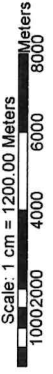
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E 14-40.00

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E 14-10.00



LOCODES