



Merchant Shipping Directorate



## SAFETY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH EXCESSIVE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

### *Information Notice 29 Rev.1*

*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](#) and [10/2019](#), highlighting the potential safety issues related to excessive consumption of alcohol onboard merchant vessels and yachts.

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. When preparing documentation related to the drug and alcohol policy, it shall be taken into account that consumption and abuse may take place on board, on neighbouring vessels and whilst on shore leave.

This Administration recognises that the drug and alcohol policy is to be enforced throughout the seafarers' employment contract term. All crew members should be aware that non-compliance with the drug and alcohol policy, whilst on board or whilst on shore leave, could constitute a breach of contract.

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

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

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