



***Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers***

***Merchant Shipping Notice No. 60***

*Notice to Shipowners, Ship Operators and Managers,  
Owners' representatives and Masters, and Officers*

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The 1996 amendments to the Safety of Life at Sea Convention, has made it mandatory for ship masters to be provided with information that enables them to formulate a plan for the safe loading, unloading and stowage of bulk cargoes as agreed to by both ship and shore personnel. Furthermore, by Assembly Resolution A.862(20), IMO has developed detailed provisions on communication and co-operation contained in a ***Code of Practice for the Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers – the BLU Code*** which, although not mandatory, IMO urges its earliest implementation. Moreover, Directive 2001/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union of 4 December 2001 established requirements and harmonised procedures to implement these recommendations.

Therefore, the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen hereby notifies that, in terms of regulation 3(2) of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Rules, 2003, as from the 1 May 2004, the ***Code of Practice for the Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers*** shall be observed, as applicable, by all Maltese ships wherever they are, and by all ships irrespective of their flag when they are within a port in Malta.

Merchant Shipping Directorate  
Valletta

21 April 2004