L.N. 4 of 1997

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT
(CAP. 234)

Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules, 1997

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 301 of the Merchant Shipping Act, the Minister for Transport and Ports has made the following rules:—

Citation.

1. These rules may be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Signals of Distress) Rules, 1997.

Interpretation.

2. The phrase "Maltese ships" shall have the same meaning as is assigned to it by section 3 of the Merchant Shipping Act.

Application.

3. These rules shall apply to all Maltese ships.

Prescription of signals of distress.

4. When a Maltese ship is in distress and requires assistance, she shall use or exhibit the signals described in Annex IV of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, which Annex is set out in the Schedule to these rules.

Use of signals of distress.

5. (1) No signal of distress shall be used by any ship unless the master of the ship so orders.

(2) The master of the ship shall not order any signal of distress to be used by his ship unless he is satisfied:

(a) that his ship is in serious and imminent danger, or that another ship or an aircraft is in serious and imminent danger and cannot of itself send that signal; and

(b) that the ship in danger (whether his own ship or another ship) or the aircraft in danger, as the case may be, requires immediate assistance in addition to any assistance then available to her.