

**MARITIME
& SHIPPING
FACTSHEET**

THE MALTA FLAG

The Maltese flag is one of the most reputable and recognisable across our seas and oceans and is now the first in Europe and one of the largest in the world in terms of registered tonnage.

Such results were achieved thanks to a 24/7 customer oriented flag administration, the ratification of international maritime conventions and an active role within the most prestigious international fora such as the IMO, ILO and at EU level.

Malta's accession to the European Union in 2004 together with its placement within the Paris and Tokyo MOU White List and the adoption of clear Tonnage Tax rules have also contributed over the last twenty years to transform the Malta flag into one of the most reputable in terms of safety and environmental protection.

BENEFITS OF MALTA FLAG

- Competitive registration fees and possibility to benefit from an EU compliant Tonnage Tax Regime applicable also to non-Maltese and Non-EU/EEA registered vessels.
- Tonnage Tax rules applicable also to Ship & Yacht Management Companies.
- Ratification of a wide number of OECD compliant double taxation agreements.
- No navigation restrictions imposed on Malta flagged vessels.
- No restriction in terms of nationality of shareholders, director and employees of owning companies.
- Smooth crew-acknowledgement certification process with STCW endorsements processed in a timely manner.
- One of most competitive social security rates within the EU allowing yacht-owners to comply with the EU Regulation 883 of 2004 in a more efficient manner.
- An experience and proactive flag administration supported by dynamic, reputable and experienced legal and accounting professionals specialised in the registration, management, and administration of yachts and super yachts.



SHIP REGISTRATION

“Choosing the right flag is one of the most important factors when acquiring and operating a vessel”

The Ship Registration Desk offers legal and advisory services pertaining to the sale, purchasing, registration, importation and the provision of ancillary services such as drafting of seafarers employment contracts and payroll services.

Our Services Include

- Registration of ships & yachts under the Maltese flag.
- Registration on a bareboat-in or bareboat-out basis.
- Transfer of ownership, deletion and re-flagging of vessels.
- Liaising with Maltese authorities (Transport Malta, Merchant Shipping Directorate). regarding registration paperwork, approvals, licences.
- Ensuring compliance with international maritime conventions and regulatory requirements.

Other Ancillary Services

- Drafting & reviewing contracts: sale/purchase, repair/refit, building, charter, crew employment agreements.
- Appointment as resident agent.
- Release of STCW crew certification and Seaman's Books.
- Assistance to Ship Owners with Transport Malta's technical department.
- Provision of Vessel searches.
- Appointment as process agent by ship owner.
- Application for tonnage tax exemption.

MARINE LITIGATION

We assist ship owners, charterers, financial institutions and generally any claimants in disputes concerning any type of vessel either located in Malta or connected with our jurisdiction.

The adoption of clear rules concerning the enforcement of rights has made Malta one of the chosen jurisdictions by all those claimants willing to satisfy their interests in enforcing their rights through arrest proceedings of vessels, ship releases and provision of counter-security instruments, judicial sales by auction, court approved private sales of vessels and the filing of injunctions over vessels in the shipping registry.



CONTACT US



E: INFO@PIAZZALEGAL.NET

W: PIAZZALEGAL.NET

T: +356 79335995

A: 25/13, VINCENTI BUILDINGS,
VALLETTA, VLT 1432,
MALTA.

This factsheet is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. You should not act or refrain from acting on the basis of any content included herein without seeking appropriate legal or other professional advice. The information contained in this document may be subject to change.

Copyright © 2026 PIAZZA LEGAL - All Rights Reserved.