



Ship recycling

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Malta is a perfect location from where to organise and facilitate the recycling of ships. The islands' geographical location in the centre of the Mediterranean together with the business-friendly, can-do approach of the local authorities has, in recent years, caught the attention of owners seeking 'best practices' to recycle vessels, including rigs, that are at the end of their service life.

In the ship breakage sector, Malta can extend its services to (i) owners operating non-EU flagged vessels that are in Malta's vicinity (in the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins) and to (ii) owners of Malta-flagged vessels generally.

In the first category of cases, Malta scores high with those owners with vessels in Malta's vicinity not only because the islands offer good anchorage, but more importantly because the competent Maltese authorities

have the required expertise to handle the procedures laid down by the applicable international instruments governing the disposal of waste. Ganado Advocates assists and advises owners with the process by means of which the vessels change their designation in Malta from seagoing vessels to 'waste', to be afterwards shipped to their final destination outside Malta for demolition, reuse, recycling and disposal. Malta ratified the Basel Convention and, as a member of the EU, enforces the Waste Shipment Regulation ((EC) 1013/2006).

Exporting waste from Malta in accordance with the said legislation ensures that ships are demolished conscientiously and with high regard to the protection of the environment and this, in turn, serves to safeguard the companies' international reputation at a time when environmental responsibilities are high on the agenda. The entire process happens under the careful watch of the Maltese environmental authorities who have,

along the way, adopted a favourable approach that is very welcome in a somewhat complex cross-border regulatory environment.

In the second category of cases, owners of Malta Flagged vessels aiming to recycle their vessels in accordance with the recently introduced EU Ship Recycling Regulation ((EU) No 1257/2013), will be required to notify the Malta Flag Administration and obtain prior Flag approval in accordance with Merchant Shipping Notice 147 of December 2018.

The applicable EU Ship Recycling Regulations contain important requirements relating to:

- the European List of Approved Ship Recycling Facilities;
- the notification that would need to be sent to the Merchant Shipping Directorate regarding the

intended recycling operations;

- the carrying on board of an Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM); and
- the development of a Ship Recycling Plan and the surveys that need to be conducted at different intervals prior to the vessels being taken out of service for their eventual recycling.

Ganado Advocates will guide owners through the legal, regulatory, operational and administrative labyrinth to ensure a smooth and seamless procedure, from the initial stages of notification of the shipment of waste or the recycling of vessels to the final stages following recycling and/or disposal. Working with the local port and environmental authorities, local agents and law firms in foreign jurisdictions where recycling yards are located, the firm has over the years accumulated the necessary experience to be in a position to advise on all aspects of the process.

For further information:

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