



Merchant Shipping Directorate



BATTERY CHARGING/STORAGE ON COMMERCIAL YACHTS

Commercial Yachting Notice 4

*Notice to Yacht Owners, Yacht Operators, Managers, Masters,
Owners' Representatives, Appointed Surveyors and Recognised Organisations*

As yachts continue to grow in size, the form and function of their garages/storage spaces are also evolving. This has led to an increase in risks associated with fire. The [Malta Commercial Yacht Code \(CYC\)](#), as amended, addresses these increased fire risks in a rigorous, practical and consistent manner.

From recent fire incidents' investigations, it has been found that the storage/charging of lithium-ion battery packs were the main contributor to these increased garages/storage spaces fire risks, onboard yachts.

To this effect, this Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the risks associated with the storage and charging of lithium-ion batteries including batteries for electric tenders and toys. It is imperative that:

- a) Surveyors/Designers/Yacht Builders/Masters are well acquainted with the up to-date requirements of the CYC;
- b) Existing Yachts should meet the updated requirements of the CYC;
- c) Any deviations from the requirements of the CYC shall be duly approved by this Administration;
- d) Crew onboard yachts are well aware of the associated risks/hazards and are well trained in order to deal with an eventuality of a fire;
- e) Masters should ascertain their yacht's fire/smoke/gas detection and fire suppression equipment is fully functional and well maintained at all times;
- f) Any suspect/defective/problematic battery packs should immediately be disembarked from the yacht.

More information may be found by making reference to Section 11 of the CYC. A copy of the CYC may be downloaded from <https://www.transport.gov.mt/CYC-2020.pdf-f5742>.

It is strongly recommended that all necessary precautions are implemented in order to mitigate fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries.

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Merchant Shipping Directorate
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