



Merchant Shipping Directorate



## PROPER SECURING OF STEEL PLATES AND SAFE HANDLING

### *Information Notice 56*

*Notice to Ship-owners, Ship Operators, Managers, Masters,  
Owners' Representatives and Recognized Organizations*

The Directorate would like to draw the attention of all concerned to the MSIU Safety Investigation Report No. [15/2024](#). This investigation report highlights the importance of safe stowage and securing of steel plates to reduce the risks associated with handling heavy steel plates.

In view of the key findings from safety analysis conducted by this Administration, the following recommendations are made as follows:

- **Incorporate Safety Guidelines into SMS:** Ensure the company's safety management system (SMS) includes clear guidelines procedures and necessary risk assessment for the safe handling of heavy items, emphasizing the avoidance of one-person operations for such tasks.
- **Horizontal Storage and Use of Lifting Equipment:** Whenever possible, store steel plates horizontally in a designated area equipped with appropriate lifting tools to facilitate safe handling.
- **Safe Racks for Vertical Storage:** For vertically secured plates, construct purpose-built racks designed to safely store and enable the handling of heavy steel plates without endangering crew members.

All concerned are strongly recommended to bring this Notice and the safety investigation report to the attention of all crew serving onboard Maltese registered vessels and follow the recommendations contained therein.

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Malta Transport Centre  
Hal Lija LJA 2021, Malta

Tel: +356 2125 0360  
Email: [mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt](mailto:mershipmalta.tm@transport.gov.mt)  
[www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration](http://www.transport.gov.mt/ship-registration)



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