



MALTA

SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

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COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Pollution and Incident Response (for Oil & HNS) Ports and Yachting Directorate Authority for Transport in Malta (Transport Malta) Malta Transport Centre Xatt I-Ghassara ta' I-Gheneb Marsa MRS 1917	Tel: +356 2291 44 20 Fax: +356 2291 44 29
Malta Planning and Environment Authority (MEPA) P.O. Box 200, Marsa MRS1000	Tel: +356 2290 0000 Pollution Control +356 2069 9595 Emergency Service: Fax: +356 2290 2295

RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

Malta has a draft contingency plan, but further details are not known. The Authority for Transport in Malta (Transport Malta) is the competent national authority with overall responsibility for oil pollution response at sea. The Malta Planning and Environment Authority (MEPA) deals with policy issues related to spill response.

Should a major incident occur, assistance would have to be sought from other Mediterranean countries.

RESPONSE POLICY

Mechanical recovery is favoured over the use of dispersants, however, their application may be allowed as a secondary response option. A policy for dispersant use is presently being developed (*Information current May 2011*). Official authorisation from relevant authorities, specifically environment, will be required prior to use.

EQUIPMENT

Government & Private

Limited spill response equipment is available in Malta. Tugs, patrol craft, workboats and Civil Protection craft could be used to apply dispersants. Limited aircraft dispersant application capability is available but, as at May 2011, there were no viable dispersant stockpiles.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

There have not been any significant oil spills in Maltese waters.



HAZARDOUS & NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (HNS)

The competent authorities for dealing with marine pollution involving HNS are Transport Malta as well as the Civil Protection Department under the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs. Other entities that may be involved include the Armed Forces of Malta and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority. Malta does not currently cover HNS in its NCP, though this is under review. Its capability for responding to HNS spills is very limited. The Civil Protection Department has equipment specifically designed for combating HNS and protective clothing to carry out the task. Malta has not been involved in any major marine incidents involving HNS. (Information from EMSA, 2008)

CONVENTIONS

Prevention & Safety					Spill Response		Compensation						
MARPOL 73/78		Annexes III IV V VI			OPRC '90	OPRC -HNS	CLC '69 '76 '92			Fund '92	Supp Fund	HNS*	Bunker
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			✓

* not yet in force

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Barcelona Convention (with states bordering the Mediterranean).

For further information see REMPEC (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea) Country Profile (http://www.rempec.org/country.asp?cid=13&IDS=2_1&daNme=General%20Information&openNum=1)

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