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# SHIPPING SERVICES

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# Why register under the Malta Flag?

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The Malta flag formally came into existence as an 'open' register in 1973. Since then, in terms of tonnage, the Malta register established itself as one of the principal quality registries in the world and it is currently the largest ship register in the EU. The advantages of registering a ship under the Maltese flag include:

- Competitive registry fees and low registration costs
- A tonnage tax regime which has a number of attractive fiscal incentives
- No restrictions on the nationality of the Owner of a Maltese registered vessel
- No restrictions on the nationality residence or domicile of master and crew
- A legislative framework which safeguards ship financiers' rights and interests
- No restrictions on transfer or sale of shares in Maltese ship-owning companies
- Marketing benefits which arise from the fact that Malta is a member of the Paris MoU and is well placed on the White List of the Paris MoU
- Flying the flag of a country which is an EU member state

Where a ship is to be owned by a non-Maltese individual or body corporate, such International Owner must first appoint a Resident Agent. Such Resident Agent must be resident in Malta and must hold office until such time as the vessel is registered in Malta.

## Services we offer

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### **Registration of vessels**

Ships intending to fly the Maltese Flag must be registered with the Registry in the Merchant Shipping Directorate of the Malta Maritime Authority (Transport Malta). Registration takes place in two stages. The vessel is first 'provisionally' registered and upon satisfaction of certain requirements, such registration is converted into a permanent status. Ganado Services Limited assists in the whole process and thereafter continues to provide all administrative services for the vessel registered in Malta in order to ensure continued compliance with international and local requirements expected from Maltese flagged vessels.

Members of the Shipping team coordinate with the members of GANADO Advocates' Shipping department who typically advise clients on both the

legalities and logistics of the transaction. It is because of such internal coordination that clients are offered the full package under one roof at competitive rates. Lawyers will only be roped in to assist in the legalities whilst the supporting staff will handle all the rest.

The administration of the Malta Flag by the Merchant Shipping Directorate of Transport Malta is being increasingly driven by safety considerations and compliance with international obligations. In this context, we typically advise clients on all major international maritime conventions concerning safety at sea, pollution and tonnage measurement. We also assist clients in handling port state and flag state control, crewing requirements, armed guards requirements in the context of piracy, renewal of certification and all other related technical and administrative aspects concerning Maltese ships.

## **Services of Resident Agent**

Ganado Services Limited can also be appointed as resident agent of a ship owner who is a non-Maltese individual or body corporate.

Ganado Services Limited in its capacity of resident agent typically provides the following services:

- i** acting as the channel of communication between the International Owner and the relevant departments and authorities of the Malta Government;
- ii** on behalf of the International Owner, signing and filing with the relevant departments and authorities of the Malta Government all declarations and forms required by the laws of Malta; and
- iii** acting as the judicial representative of the International Owner for judicial proceedings in Malta and for the purposes of the Merchant Shipping Act. In this respect, any court notice served on the Resident Agent at his last registered address is deemed to have been duly received by and notified to the International Owner.

## **Bareboat Chartering**

Malta provides a very attractive bareboat-out and bareboat-in flag with a number of compatible jurisdictions.

Ganado Services assists in the compilation and filing of all the required documentation both in cases where the owner wishes to have his Maltese Registered Vessel bareboat chartered out of Malta to a foreign flag (Bareboat 'Out' Registration) and in cases where a charterer may wish to fly the Malta flag whose ownership is registered in the register of another flag (Bareboat 'In' Registration).



## Why Ganado Services Limited?

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### **Who can assist you further?**

For further information on how we can assist you on your shipping-related requirements, please contact:

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Ganado Services Limited, together with the affiliated law firm GANADO Advocates, has contributed significantly over the past decades to the growth of the financial and maritime services sectors in Malta, especially in the development of the law in this area.

Ganado Services Limited prides itself in providing its clients with a bespoke user friendly service. Our Shipping team assists clients in the registration process of any vessel under the Malta flag and thereafter provides its clients with a continued service which includes full shipping administrative assistance as well as acting as the Resident Agent when this is required.

We are very conscious that our shipping clients expect a quick turnaround and quality assistance. Solutions need to be offered. Our Shipping team is a specialised unit with years of experience in the shipping industry and has been purposely set up to address increasing client demand for the provision of services in this area.

Ganado Services Limited also ensures good relations are maintained with the Malta Flag Administration and has, throughout the years, established an excellent rapport with the Malta Registry of Shipping.