

# DPA / CSO Information Bulletin

*EUROMAR, your representative for Portuguese flagged vessels*

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## GAMA, The Portuguese Maritime Safety Investigation Authority

by EUROMAR Maritime Department

IMO RESOLUTION MSC.255(84) (adopted on 16 May 2008), "CASUALTY INVESTIGATION CODE" (CIC) which incorporates and builds on the best practices in marine casualty and marine incident investigation, providing a common approach for Coastal and Flag States to adopt in the conduct of marine safety investigations into marine casualties and incidents.

According to the PART II of this Code, there is a mandatory requirement for notification of Flag State whenever a marine casualty, incident and near miss occurs. The Flag State of a ship, or ships, involved, shall notify other substantially "interested parties and States" as soon as is reasonably practicable.

In Portugal, GAMA is the "Maritime Safety Investigation Authority", as per 2.13 of the CIC, responsible for undertaking investigations in accordance with the IMO Casualty Investigation Code and EU Directive 2009/18 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

### Contact Details:

**GAMA - Gabinete de Investigação de Acidentes Marítimos e da Autoridade para a Meteorologia Aeronáutica**

### Address:

Rua C do Aeroporto - Edifício do IPMA  
1749-077 LISBOA - PORTUGAL

### E-mail:

General: [gama@gama.mm.gov.pt](mailto:gama@gama.mm.gov.pt)

Reporting occurrences and submitting notification forms: [iam@gama.mm.gov.pt](mailto:iam@gama.mm.gov.pt)



## Reporting Marine Incidents, Casualties and Near Misses

Marine casualties, incidents and near misses occurring on board ships, including personal injury, property damage, and environmental pollution must be reported.



# Reporting Marine Incidents, Casualties and Near Misses

Here are some of the general occurrence reporting procedures for all marine casualties incidents and near misses on board Portuguese flagged vessels:

- **Immediate Reporting:** In case of an emergency, marine casualty, incident or near miss (i.e such as a fire, collision, grounding, or pollution, etc...) the master of the ship must immediately report the incident to the nearest coastal authorities, either through the ship-to-shore radio or by other means of communication.
- **Formal Reporting:** Immediate after the occurrence, the Master/ISM Company must submit a written report to the Flag State Administration. The Form "Notification of Marine Casualty or Incident" shall be completed and sent to the Portuguese Competent Authorities (GAMA, MAR Technical Commission and Flag Administration - DGRM) along with supporting documentation and evidences.

## Mandatory Reporting Procedure - Portuguese Authorities

### Reporting of Marine Casualties, Incidents and Near Misses

GAMA (The Portuguese Maritime Safety Investigation Authority) and the Portuguese Administration (DGRM & MAR Registry), must be officially notified using [Notification of Marine Casualty and Incident Form](#) and sending to the below email contacts.

#### To:

- GAMA, the Portuguese Maritime Accident Investigation Authority: [gama@gama.mm.gov.pt](mailto:gama@gama.mm.gov.pt) & [iam@gama.mm.gov.pt](mailto:iam@gama.mm.gov.pt)
- DGRM (Maritime Administration): [marad@dgrm.mm.gov.pt](mailto:marad@dgrm.mm.gov.pt)
- MAR Technical Commission : [mar@madeira.gov.pt](mailto:mar@madeira.gov.pt)

#### Cc:

- Euromar: [maritime@eu-registry.com](mailto:maritime@eu-registry.com)

GAMA will then assess the occurrence and perform a preliminary analysis in order to classify the event per type and severity, and decide if a maritime safety investigating team is deployed to the vessel. Even if an incident / causality is not classified as a serious one later on, the reporting of the same will be considered as a positive factor towards the company and Flag's statistics, and thus taken as an evidence that the implemented system is working.

## Notification of Marine Casualty and Incident Form

The mandatory FORM to complete for reporting a marine casualty or incident is available for download at [Euromar Website Download Section](#) or at [GAMA website](#).

Shipowners and ISM Companies are also strongly encouraged to report directly into the [European Marine Casualty Information Platform – EMCIP](#) which is a database and a data distribution system operated by EMSA, the European Commission and the EU/EEA Member States.

- **Notification of Classification Societies / Recognised Organization** to assess the condition of the vessel (if applicable)
- **Notification of P&I Club:** In case of a marine casualty, the ship owner or operator must also notify their Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Club.
- **Notification of Port State / Coastal Authority**
- **Investigation:** Depending on the severity of the incident, casualty or near miss, after assessing the initial notification and performing a preliminary assessment, GAMA may proceed with an investigation (i.e interviews with crew members, examination of the ship's equipment and records, other relevant information, etc).

It's important to note that the reporting procedures for marine casualties, incidents and near misses are governed by a number of international conventions, including for example the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), MLC 2006 (ILO), etc...

Definitions of Marine Casualty and Marine Incident can be seen at MSC-MEPC.3/Circ.2 13 June 2008 " Code of the International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into a Marine Casualty or Marine Incident " - Chapter 2 Definition, Paragraph 2.9 and 2.10.



The image shows the cover page of the 'Notification of Marine Casualty and Incident Form'. It features a blue background with a white and red ship at sea. The text is organized into several sections:

- Notification:** A section explaining that all very serious maritime casualties should be notified to GAMA within 6 hours. It lists the following persons or entities to be notified: Vessel's Master, Owner or Company, Geographically competent coastal centre, Port authorities, PICC, Recognised organization responsible for issuing statutory certificates of the ship, Local Maritime Authorities, Directorate General of Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services, Other public or private entities, and Consulate.
- gama:** The logo for GAMA (Aeronautical, Meteorology Authority and Maritime Accident Investigation Office).
- Enhancing MARITIME SAFETY:** A section with three bullet points: 'PREVENTING POLLUTION caused by vessel's', 'REDUCING THE RISK of Maritime casualties', and 'REDUCING THE RISK of Maritime casualties'.
- Procedures for notification:** A section providing contact information: Address: Rua C Aeroporto de Lisboa, 1470-077 LISBOA - PORTUGAL; Tel: (+351) 21 8 467 148; Direct 24h: (+351) 967 892 498; [gama@gama.mm.gov.pt](mailto:gama@gama.mm.gov.pt); <http://www.gama.mm.gov.pt/>.
- REPUBLICA PORTUGUESA:** The logo of the Portuguese Republic.