



Marine Notice No. 66 of 2025

Notice to all Shipowners, Fishing Vessel Owners, Agents, Shipmasters, Skippers, Fishers, Yachtsmen, Seafarers, Harbourmasters and Owners and Users of Pleasure and Recreational Craft.

Notification requirements for Marine Accidents

1. Marine Accident Investigation Unit (MAIU)

The Merchant Shipping (Investigation of Marine Accidents) Act 2025 ([Act No. 2 of 2025](#)) provides for the establishment of the Marine Accident Investigation Unit (MAIU) which becomes the designated marine accident investigation authority in the State on **01 January 2026**. The Act provides the statutory regime for marine accident investigation in line with EU obligations and domestic priorities.

The Act also provides for the dissolution of the Marine Casualty Investigation Board (MCIB) and sets out transitional investigation provisions whereby any ongoing investigation will continue to be dealt with and determined by the MCIB investigator concerned or an MAIU investigator, pursuant to the relevant statutory provisions and modifications.

The MAIU is led by a Chief Investigator and will be staffed with a full-time permanent team of investigators. The purpose of marine accident investigations by the MAIU is to investigate the cause or causes of a marine accident and to issue safety recommendations for the avoidance of future marine accidents.

2. Notification of Marine Accidents

Notifications of occurrences of marine accidents should be directed to the MAIU by telephone to +353 1 6768139 or by email to info@maiu.gov.ie. This telephone is monitored 24 hours/day.

Section 17 of the Act ([click here](#)) sets out the statutory obligations for notification of marine accidents, immediately on becoming aware of a marine accident having occurred or commenced, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

Notifications are required by:

- Master of ship, or most senior surviving officer;
- Owner of ship;
- Harbour Authorities;
- Waterways Ireland;
- Irish Coast Guard;
- Marine Survey Office;

There shall be included in a notification such relevant information as is known to the person making the notification, including the name and description of the ship, its position, the number of persons on board, if any, and as accurate a summary as possible of the marine accident.

3. Definition of Marine Accidents

[Section 2\(1\)](#) of the Act defines a marine accident as “*a marine casualty or a marine incident*”.

“marine casualty” means an event, or a sequence of events, that has resulted in any of the following, which has occurred directly in connection with the operations of a ship:

- (a) the death of, or serious injury to, a person;*
- (b) the loss of a person from a ship;*
- (c) the loss, presumed loss or abandonment of a ship;*
- (d) material damage to a ship;*
- (e) the stranding or disabling of a ship, or the involvement of a ship in a collision;*
- (f) material damage to marine infrastructure external to a ship that could seriously endanger the safety of the ship, another ship or an individual;*
- (g) severe damage to the environment, or the potential for severe damage to the environment, brought about by the damage of a ship or ships,*
but does not include a deliberate act or omission done with the intention to cause harm to the safety of a ship, an individual or the environment.

“marine incident” means an event, or a sequence of events, other than a marine casualty, which has occurred directly in connection with the operations of a ship that endangered, or, if not corrected, would endanger the safety of the ship, its occupants or any other person or the environment, but does not include a deliberate act or omission done with the intention to cause harm to the safety of a ship, an individual or the environment.

If in doubt as to whether an occurrence constitutes a marine accident, then please contact the MAIU.

4. Contact Details

General enquiries can be made by email to info@maiu.gov.ie or by telephone to 01-6040578 during normal business hours.

Further information is available on the MAIU's website: www.maiu.gov.ie

Note: Marine Notices are issued purely for maritime safety and navigation reasons and should not be construed as conferring rights or granting permissions.

Irish Maritime Administration,
Department of Transport,
Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.

22/12/2025

For any technical assistance in relation to this Marine Notice, please contact:
The Marine Survey Office, email: MSO@transport.gov.ie.
For general enquiries, please contact the Maritime Safety Policy Division, email:
MaritimeSafetyPolicyDivision@transport.gov.ie.
Written enquiries concerning Marine Notices should be addressed to:
Dept. of Transport, Maritime Safety Policy Division, Leeson Lane, Dublin 2, D02 TR60, Ireland.
email: MarineNotices@transport.gov.ie or visit us at: www.gov.ie/transport.