



**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS  
MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES,  
FISHERIES AND SHIPPING  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, KEN LEE BUILDING, EDITH CAVELL STREET  
PORT LOUIS**

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**Circular Note 01 of 2024**

1. Amendments have recently been made to Section 231 of the Merchant Shipping Act 2007, through the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024 on the issue of outward Port Clearance as per the following:

*“231. Port clearances*

*(1) Subject to subsection (3), every ship intending to leave a Port shall apply for, not later than 6 hours prior to the expected time of departure, a port clearance from the Director which shall be valid for 24 hours as from the expected time of departure.*

*(2) Where a ship has not been able to sail within the validity period of the port clearance issued under subsection (1), the master of the ship shall report to the Director his reasons for not sailing and shall apply for a fresh port clearance from the Director.*

*(3) The Director shall withhold the issue of a port clearance to a ship where –*

*(a) an arrest order has been issued by the Court;*

*(b) an objection to departure has been raised by any Ministry or Government department;*

*(c) an investigation into a shipping casualty is ongoing, provided that the ship is not unduly delayed; or*

*(d) the ship fails to produce such document as required by the Director for the issue of the port clearance.*

*(4) A port clearance issued under this section may be in the form of an electronic document.”*

2. The attention of all Shipping Agencies is particularly drawn to the validity period of a port clearance, which has changed from 12 hours as from the expected time of departure to **24 hours as from expected time of departure**. The electronic port clearance issued through the Vessel Clearance System has been amended accordingly.
3. This Ministry also wishes to remind all Shipping Agencies that no amendments can be made to an outward port clearance once the vessel has departed from Port Louis. Any request for amendment of port clearances after the departure of the vessel will not be entertained.

**Director of Shipping**

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