



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
SHIPPING DEPUTY MINISTRY

Circular No. 25/2023

25 October 2023

SDM 05.13.002 & 04.28.005.004.002

To all Registered owners, Registered bareboat charterers
Managers and Representatives of Cyprus ships

Subject: Safety and security of vessels under Cyprus Flag calling or approaching ports/countries where armed/civil conflicts take place

The Shipping Deputy Ministry wishes to reiterate its recommendation (Circulars No. 20/2015 and 33/2021 are of relevance) to the owners and operators of Cyprus flagged vessels **to avoid any callings and transactions at foreign ports and/or countries where political instability and/ or armed and/or civil conflicts take place** (or are evidently imminent).

2 As previously recommended, **increased vigilance and close communication should be maintained at all times with Port and Flag State authorities and local shipping agents**, in accordance with the requirements of the **ISPS Code**.

3 The situation in Israel remains, for the time being, volatile. Therefore, it is recommended, in the absence of any specific security-related threats, that owners, operators, managers and masters of Cyprus flagged ships calling Israeli ports or, when remaining or navigating through the territorial waters of Israel, to:

- make frequent checks with local sources of information, e.g. vessel agents, local authorities, Hull and Machinery and Protection and Indemnity insurance providers, in order to obtain the most up-to-date and reliable security-related information available at any given time,
- carefully assess the security-related situation at each port call or when remaining or navigating through territorial waters, on a case-by-case basis and, as necessary, to implement appropriate security measures aboard in order to protect the vessel and its crew,
- review, exercise and, if necessary, implement the relevant contingency plans,
- maintain the utmost vigilance and increase, as necessary, the rigorousness of implementing the security measures aboard in order to protect the vessel and its crew.

4 For any security-related concerns please contact the SDM by email at maritime.security@dms.gov.cy or ssas@dms.gov.cy or by telephone at the number: +357 99 377988 (during out of office hours).



5 It is recalled that Israel is already a listed area for Hull War, Piracy, Terrorism and Related Perils by the Joint War Committee's of the London Underwriters and thus it is recommended to contact the vessel's war insurer well in advance of arrival at any Israeli port or entry into the territorial waters of Israel including while exercising the right of innocent passage. It is noted that a similar approach applies for other neighbouring countries.



Dr. Stelios D. Himonas
Permanent Secretary

- Cc:** - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Maritime Offices of the Shipping Deputy Ministry abroad
- Recognised Organisations
- Cyprus Bar Association
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Shipping Association

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