



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
SHIPPING DEPUTY MINISTRY

Circular No. 23/2023

28 September 2023

SDM 5.13.002

To all Recognised Organisations (ROs) and Inspectors of Cyprus Ships

All Registered Owners, Registered Bareboat Charterers,  
Managers and Representatives of ships flying the Cyprus Flag

**Subject:** Guidance regarding the implementation of international statutory requirements which contain references “to the satisfaction of the Administration” or “to be specified by the Administration” or vaguely worded

1. The International Statutory Requirements, such as the International Maritime Organization (“IMO”) Conventions and in general all IMO Instruments as amended ratified by the Republic of Cyprus, or IMO Codes or IMO Resolutions, have a number of rules and regulations which are left “to the satisfaction of the Administration” or “to be specified by the Administration” or provide for “equivalent arrangements”, and are vaguely worded.

The purpose of this Circular is to provide guidance and clarify the policy adopted by the Shipping Deputy Ministry of the Republic of Cyprus (“SDM”) regarding the above issue.

2. During the examination of any issue for the purpose of providing an interpretation, the following should be considered:

- i. Any National and European Union legislation, including Circulars issued by the SDM,
- ii. The Agreement signed between the Recognised Organisation (“RO”) and the Republic of Cyprus,
- iii. Any Resolutions, Circulars, Recommendations, Guidelines etc. adopted by IMO and/or the International Labour Organization (ILO),
- iv. Unified Requirements and Unified Interpretations of the International Association of Classifications Societies (IACS) which can be found and downloaded at the IACS website: [www.iacs.org.uk](http://www.iacs.org.uk).

3. For ships in the process of changing Flag to Cyprus, the interpretations<sup>1</sup> given by the ship's previous Flag not falling under paragraph 2.i) above, will in general be acceptable<sup>2</sup>, unless otherwise decided by this Administration, provided that:

- i. the unconditional issuance of the relevant statutory certificate in accordance with relevant international conventions is not impeded, and
- ii. the ship's previous Flag is an EU or non-EU Flag Administration which is a Member State of IMO and Contracting Government to the related to the interpretation given Convention.

<sup>1</sup> related to the requirements of the mandatory IMO instruments left to “the satisfaction of the Administration”

<sup>2</sup> this acceptance does not apply for matters related to exemptions, equivalent/alternative arrangements etc. which must be reported by the ROs on the Classification Society's statement required by SDM Circular 20/2001 and handled in accordance with the requirements of SDM Circular 16/2022.



4. For cases not covered by the policy stipulated above in paragraphs 2 and 3, a 'case by case' approach is utilised by the SDM. Such cases however, should be fully justified and supported by the vessel's RO.

In any case, the proposal should be forwarded to the SDM as the final decision for approving/ accepting an interpretation lies solely with this Administration.

The RO should await to receive a positive reply from SDM prior to any commitment for further actions.

For further enquiries, please contact the Shipping Deputy Ministry at [maritimeadmin@dms.gov.cy](mailto:maritimeadmin@dms.gov.cy).

This Circular **supersedes SDM Circular No. 14/2020** which is hereby revoked.



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Permanent Secretary

- CC:
- Maritime Offices of the Shipping Deputy Ministry abroad
  - Cyprus Shipping Chamber
  - Cyprus Union of Shipowners
  - Cyprus Bar Association