



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



DEPARTMENT
OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

Circular No 25/2012

20 June 2012

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 4.28.03.10

- To all Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships under the Cyprus flag and of Ships of all flags within the territory of the Republic of Cyprus
- Recognised Organisations
- Cyprus Ports Authority

Subject: Transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea (STS operations) within Cyprus Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

I refer to the above subject and wish to inform you in addition to the provisions of Circular 35/2010 of 7th December 2010 of the following:

The new Chapter 8 of Annex I of the MARPOL Convention “Prevention of Pollution during transfer of oil cargo between Oil Tankers at Sea (STS)” entered into force on 1st January 2011. The regulations contained in this chapter apply to oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above engaged in the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers at sea (STS operations) and their STS operations conducted on or after 1 April 2012.

I. Notification of Cyprus Competent Authorities

In accordance with the requirements of paragraph 1 of regulation 42 (Notification), each oil tanker subject to the new Chapter 8 shall notify the relevant authorities of the Republic of Cyprus about the intended STS operation, either per telefax or e-mail, as follows:

Authority	Department of Merchant Shipping Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System (VTMIS)	Cyprus Ports Authority Vessel Traffic Services (CPA-VTS)
Telephone	+357 25 848 277, +357 25 848114	+357 25 207 225, +357 25 207 182
Telefax	+357 25 848 173	+357 25 561 914
e-mail	vtmis@dms.mcw.gov.cy	vts@cpa.gov.cy



A notification from the oil tanker(s) is required to be filed with (1) the Cyprus Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System (VTMIS) and (2) the Vessel Traffic Services of Cyprus Ports Authority (CPA - VTS) not less than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled STS operations.

II. Notification Requirements

The Notification to the intended STS operation shall include as a minimum the following information:

- .1 Name, flag, call sign, IMO Number and estimated time of arrival of the oil tankers involved in the STS operations;
- .2 Date, time and geographical location at the commencement of the planned STS operations;
- .3 Whether STS operations are to be conducted at anchor or underway;
- .4 Oil type and quantity;
- .5 Planned duration of the STS operations;
- .6 Identification of STS service provider or person in overall advisory control and contact information;
- .7 Confirmation that the oil tankers have on board an STS operations Plan meeting the requirements of regulation 41 of MARPOL Annex I;
- .8 Name, flag, call sign, IMO Number of any assisting third party vessel(s) (i.e tug boats);
- .9 The name and contact details of any appointed ship agent/ship representative in Cyprus.

III. Area of Operations and Financial Terms

STS operations planned to be conducted within the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus must be agreed well in advance with the Cyprus Ports Authority in order to determine and agree the area where the STS operation will be held, along with any applicable financial terms, as the case may be.

IV. Oil Pollution Prevention Measures

Section 10 of the Law No. 57 of 1989 as amended (*a Law to provide for the ratification of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 1973, of its protocol of 1978 and its amendments and for matters connected thereto*), provides for a number of preventive measures to be taken when STS operations are to be conducted within the territorial waters of the Republic of Cyprus. Section 10 is quoted below for easy reference *in italics*:

10. –(1) During the loading and unloading of oil or during oil transfers, with the exception of those white aviation oil products (benzene, naphtha, fusions, fuel of jet- planes, kerosene and light DIESEL), effected at installations or ships, those in charge of such installations or ships have a duty to ensure that:

(a) a boom of a type approved by the Competent Authority which will be deployed immediately in case of oil discharge, is available, ready for immediate use and to the required extent according to each case, so that the discharge be restricted within the said barrier ;

(b) a skimmer approved by the Competent Authority and in general any

equipment for the collection of any discharge of oil, is available, and ready for immediate use. The capacity and quantity of the said equipment shall be proportionate to the quantity of the carried oil or oil derivatives; and

- (c) *a dispersant of an approved type is available for use, at the required quantity for each case, to combat any eventual discharge of oil or oil derivatives (see also section V below).*

- (2) *The duties according to the previous subsection may be assigned by those responsible in law, with the approval of the Competent Authority, to a suitable entity or organization considered by the Competent Authority to be capable for a successful confrontation of the risks arising from the pollution as more specifically prescribed in Regulations.*

In order to comply with the applicable oil pollution prevention measures, the tankers involved in STS operations will require the assistance of third party services for deploying and handling oil spill equipment at sea and for the temporary storage of the recovered oil and oily residues from the sea.

V. Prohibition to use chemical dispersants in case of oil pollution

According to section 7 of Law 57/1989, *“the use of dispersants or other anti-pollution chemical substances to combat pollution, without the relevant approval of the Director of the Department of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DFMR) is prohibited”*. The contact details of DFMR are:

Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
Tel. +357 22 807 867, +357 22 807 807
Fax: +357 77 59 55
e-mail: lloizides@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

VI. Emergency contact details in case of oil pollution

Oil pollution incidents should be reported immediately by the Master(s) of the tanker(s) involved in STS operations as follows:

Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC)- Larnaca

Tel No: 357 24 64 30 05 or 357 1441
INMARSAT- C: 421099999
VHF at Channel 16
MF at 2182 kHz

OR

Cyprus Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System (VTMIS)

Tel No: 357 25 84 82 77 or 357 25 84 81 14
INMARSAT- C: 421299910
VHF at Channel 16

VII. STS Operations Plan

According to regulation 41 (General Rules on safety and environmental protection) of the new Chapter 8 of Annex I of the MARPOL Convention, any oil tanker involved in STS operations, (i) shall carry on board an STS operations Plan, which shall be approved by the ship's Administration and (ii) shall comply with its STS operations Plan.

The masters, owners, managers and representatives of ships flying the Cyprus flag and of ships of foreign flags involved in STS operations within the territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Republic of Cyprus are advised to abide strictly by the new MARPOL amendments and with the instructions of the present Circular.

This Circular must be placed on board oil tankers flying the Cyprus Flag.



Ioannis Efstratiou
Acting Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

- cc: - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
- Director General, Cyprus Ports Authority
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Shipping Association
- Cyprus Bar Association