

REPUBLIC



OF CYPRUS

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS**

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19 July 2007

To all Owners, Managers
and Representatives
of Ships under the Cyprus Flag

Subject: Introduction of Maritime Crew Visa Transit Changes by Australia

With respect to the above subject, the competent authorities of Australia have informed us of the introduction on 1 July 2007 of Maritime Crew Visa Transit changes which will become mandatory from 1 January 2008.

An aide memoire of the Australian High Commission in Nicosia dated 11 June 2007, the content of which is self explanatory, is hereby attached.

Serghios S. Serghiou
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
- Permanent Secretary, Planning Bureau
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- Attorney General of the Republic
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
- Cyprus Shipping Council
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Bar Association

AC/SSS



Aide Memoire

Introduction of Maritime Crew Visa Transit Changes

- Under current arrangements, crew of non-military ships are deemed to hold a Special Purpose Visa (SPV) upon arrival by ship in Australia if they have a valid passport and provide individual evidence of employment on the ship. There is no application for a SPV.
- Crew of non-military ships will have to make an application for an Maritime Crew Visa (MCV). Those crew that are granted an MCV must have a valid passport when they arrive on a ship in Australia, and be able to provide evidence of employment on the ship.
- Applications (internet and paper) for an MCV will be available from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website from 1 July 2007. There will be no visa application charge. All applications will be processed by DIAC's Brisbane Global Processing Centre. Applications cannot be lodged at Australian diplomatic or consular missions overseas.
- There will be transitional period from 1 July 2007 until 31 December 2007. During the transitional period crew of non-military ships who arrive without an MCV will be assessed against SPV requirements.
- **Important:** The MCV is not valid for air travel to Australia. Crew wishing to fly to Australia to join their ship will have to obtain a transit visa, Business Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) or Category 456 visa.
- Transit visa application forms have been amended and now include two new policy requirements: That sea crew hold an MCV before they can be granted a transit visa, and that sea crew should only be granted single entry transit visas. During the transitional period, Australian diplomatic or consular missions overseas will have the discretion to require a MCV to be held before granting a transit visa.
- Additional information is available from the DIAC website at www.immi.gov.au/sea.

Nicosia
11 June 2007