



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS  
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING  
LEMESOS

01.07.2004

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

**Subject: Implementation of EU Harmonising Legislation: The Merchant Shipping (Criminal and Disciplinary Liability of Seafarers, Suspension or Cancellation of Certificates) (Amendment) Law of 2004(Law 163(I)/2004).**

1. I wish to inform you that the *Merchant Shipping (Criminal and Disciplinary Liability of Seafarers, Suspension or Cancellation of Certificates) (Amendment) Law of 2004 (Law 163(I) /2004)* was enacted for the purpose of the better transposition into our national legislation of Directive 2001/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2001, on the minimum level of training of seafarers.

The text of the above Community Directive is available on the European Union website at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/> in "Legislation/ Directory of Community legislation in force/ Transport Policy /Shipping/ Safety at Sea.

2. The above mentioned law entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004 .(date of accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU).  
The purpose of Law 163(I)/2004 ("*the present law*") is the harmonisation with article 8(4) of Directive 2001/25/EC and the introduction of a provision regarding those cases where any company or person who is believed on clear grounds to have been responsible for or have clear knowledge of any apparent non-compliance with sections 21 or 22 ("*of the basic law*") then the Minister of Communication and Works shall extend co-operation to any Member State or other Party to the STCW Convention which is advised of the Cyprus Government's intention to initiate judicial proceedings under its jurisdiction. (new section 22A).

Law 163(I)/2004 amends section 2 and section 22 of the *Merchant Shipping (Criminal and Disciplinary Liability of Seafarers, Suspension or Cancellation of Certificates) Law of 2000 (Law 106 (I) /2000)* (“the basic law”).

**3.** Further details and requirements with regard to the effective implementation of the harmonising legislation will be communicated to you by a new Circular to be issued in the near future.

Serghios S. Serghiou  
Director  
Department of Merchant Shipping

Cc:-Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works  
-Permanent Secretary, Planning Bureau  
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance  
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health  
- Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad  
-Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic  
-Cyprus Shipping Council  
-Union of Cypriot Shipowners  
-Union of European Shipowners with Cyprus Flag Ships  
-Association of Cypriot Shipowners(Searovers) Ltd  
-Cyprus Bar Association  
-PEO Trade Union  
-SEK Trade Union

CA/CA