REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
**MINISTRY
OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS**

**DEPARTMENT
OF
MERCHANT SHIPPING**
LIMASSOL

Circular No. 17/2011   06 May 2011

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All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships flying the Cyprus flag

Recognised Organizations

Subject: Use of Nautical Publications in a Digital Format

I refer to the above subject and wish to inform you that the Department of Merchant Shipping has decided to allow the use on board ships flying the Cyprus flag of nautical publications, such as sailing directions, lists of lights, notices to mariners, tide tables, and other nautical publications necessary for the intended voyage, in digital format and to accept those as meeting the requirements specified in SOLAS regulation V/27, under the following conditions:

(1)   The provider of the publications should hold a formal approval of, or a license for, the service it provides issued by the competent authority of the State where it has been established or from where is conducting its business;

(2)   The conditions or terms specified in the aforesaid approval or license have to be met at all times and a copy of it should be available on board;

(3)   The data used in the digital publications should originate from those publications which have been officially issued or published by the competent authority of the Government concerned or by a National Hydrographic Office or by other relevant governmental institutions;

(4)   The service provider should provide all necessary updates on a regular basis or as and when changes occur or when new issues are published;

(5)   The digital publications to be used onboard the ship should be in a language understood by the shipboard personnel;

(6)   The digital publications should be in a format that allows the surveyors and inspectors of the Department of Merchant Shipping, the surveyors, inspectors and auditors of the recognized organizations which have been authorized to act on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the port State

control inspectors, to verify the compliance of the ship with the requirements of SOLAS regulation V/27;

(7)   The software containing the digital publications should be installed in a computer which is always connected to both the main and the emergency sources of power;

(8)   A back-up software should be installed in at least one additional computer which should be also connected at all times to both the main and the emergency sources of power. The officer in charge of the navigational watch should be able to access the back-up software within a short period of time;

(9)   The master and all officers in charge of navigational watch should be trained in the use of the software and the system which is installed on board, including the installation of updates or upgrades of the software provided;

(10)   The digital publications should be protected against editing by the end-users; and

(11)   The equipment and installation should comply with the requirements of SOLAS regulation V/17 regarding electromagnetic compatibility.

2   In case the introduction of publications in a digital format does not take place during an annual or renewal survey related to the Passenger Ship Safety Certificate or Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate, the master should record in the official log book the date when the change took place and the implementation should be verified during the first annual or renewal survey thereafter.

3   After the installation and commissioning of the digital system, the nautical publications which are in a printed form should be stored so as to avoid being easily accessible and should be marked as being "out of use".

This Circular must be placed on board vessels flying the Cyprus flag.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

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