

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS - CYPRUS

Kyllinis Street
CY-4007 Mesa Geitonia

P.O. Box 6190
CY-3305 Lemesos

Telephone +357-5-848100
Telefax +357-5-848200
Telex 2004 MERSHIP CY
E-mail dms@cytanet.com.cy

Circular No. 10/98

TEN 1/5
TEN 30/8

6 October 1998

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

Subject: GMDSS - IMPLEMENTATION

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we are just a step before the date (01 February 1999) of mandatory enforcement of the provisions of Chapter IV of SOLAS 1974 as amended, with regard to the installation of GMDSS equipment on all conventional ships and to urge you to ensure that all necessary arrangements for the provision and installation of the GMDSS equipment on board the ships have been made and that the ships under your ownership/management will fully comply by that date

Ships, which will fail to meet the above requirements by 01/02/1999, should not expect any special treatment from the Department as it has been explicitly declared that no postponement will be granted for the implementation of Convention requirements.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department of Merchant Shipping may grant partial or conditional exemptions, on a case by case basis, but in no case total exemption from the requirements of GMDSS, to individual ships, to which the Regulation IV/3.2.3 of SOLAS 1974 as amended is applicable, taking into consideration the geographical area where the ship is trading and the GMDSS service provided in this area, as mentioned in the Master Plan issued by I.M.O. under the following conditions:

- (i) The validity of the Certificate of Class of a ship will be limited and will not be set beyond the 31 July of the year 2000 when the ship must be taken permanently out of service. A letter from the ship's classification society

should be received by the Department, showing the date of expiry of the ship's Certificate of Class.

- (ii) The ship's trading area or ports of call should be limited and all details in this respect must be communicated to the Department.
- (iii) In applying for exemption from GMDSS, the attention of the owner/manager of the ship is drawn to the functional requirements of Regulation IV/4 of SOLAS 1974 as amended with regard to the safety of the ship itself as well as of all other ships, taking into consideration that the radiotelegraph distress frequency on 500KHz and the radiotelephony distress frequency on 2182KHz cease from 01/02/1999.
- (iv) Any application for exemption from the requirements of GMDSS should reach the Department not later than the 30 November 1998 and the provisions of the requirements of Regulations 7 to 11 of Chapter IV of SOLAS 1974 as amended from which the ship is to be exempted must be explicitly stated.
- (v) Any radio installation fitted on board, which may be considered as part of the GMDSS, or any such equipment which is due to be installed shortly (e.g. any kind of ship earth station, or DSC installation) should be mentioned in the application.

The decision of the Department will be communicated to those concerned shortly after the expiration of the period of submission of applications for exemption from the requirements of GMDSS.



S. S. Serghiou
Director

- 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
- Cyprus Shipping Council
- Unions of Cypriot Shipowners
- Cyprus Bar Association
- Recognised Classification Societies

ThE/EK