



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
**DEPUTY MINISTRY OF SHIPPING**

Circular No. 12/2018

16 April 2018

DMS 5.13.09  
DMS 4.28.03.13

To all Registered Owners, Registered Bareboat Charterers,  
Managers and Representatives of Ships flying the Cyprus Flag

**Subject: The International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978 as amended ("STCW 78") - Requirements for the training and qualifications of masters and deck officers on Cyprus ships operating in polar waters**

I refer to the above subject and further to DMS Circular No. 01/2018 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 I wish to inform you the following:

- 1) According to the provisions of Regulation V/4 of STCW 78 as amended, as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, officers in charge of a navigational watch serving on board Cyprus flagged vessels shall hold a certificate of proficiency in basic training for ships operating in polar waters, as required by the Polar Code and masters and chief officers on ships operating in polar waters, shall hold a certificate of proficiency in advanced training for ships operating in polar waters, as required by the Polar Code.
- 2) Masters, chief officers and officers in charge of navigational watch who successfully attended an approved by the Republic of Cyprus basic or advanced training program on ships operating in polar waters can apply for the issue of a certificate of proficiency using the application form EN05F39 or EN05F40 respectively.

*Transitional provisions*

- 3) Until 1 July 2020, seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service in polar waters prior to 1 July 2018, shall be able to establish that they meet the requirements of paragraph 2 of Regulation V/4 of STCW 78 as amended by having completed approved seagoing service or equivalent approved seagoing service<sup>1</sup> on board Cyprus flagged ships operating in polar waters performing duties in the deck department at the operational or management level, for a period of at least three months in total during the preceding five years;

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<sup>1</sup> Shall be calculated in accordance with attached appendix.



- 4) Until 1 July 2020, seafarers who commenced approved seagoing service in polar waters prior to 1 July 2018 shall be able to establish that they meet the requirements of paragraph 4 of Regulation V/4 of STCW 78 as amended, by having completed approved seagoing service or equivalent approved seagoing service on board Cyprus flagged ships operating in polar waters performing duties in the deck department at management level, for a period of at least three months in total during the preceding five years;
- 5) Seafarers which meet the criteria of paragraph 3 and/or 4 may apply until 30 June 2020 for certification for basic and/or advanced training for ships operating in polar waters using application form EN05F39 or EN05F40 respectively.
- 6) Certificates of proficiency for basic and advanced training for ships operating in polar waters issued by a country whose certificates of competency are recognised by the Republic of Cyprus are accepted for service on board Cyprus flagged vessels operating in polar waters.

The Deputy Ministry will be at the disposal of Owners, Managers and anyone concerned with the matter for any explanations and clarifications they may require.

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



**Costas Iacovou**  
**Acting Permanent Secretary**  
Deputy Ministry of Shipping

CC:

- Maritime Offices of the Deputy Ministry of Shipping abroad
- Inspectors of Cyprus Ships
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Offices of the Republic
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Ship-owners
- Cyprus Master Mariners Association
- Association of Merchant Marine Officers
- Recognised maritime training schools
- Trade Union SEK
- Trade Union PEO
- Cyprus Bar Association

**Appendix****Approved seagoing service**

The days on board a vessel in polar waters, performing duties in the deck department divided by 30.

The management company (DOC holder) of the ship shall issue a report in the form of table 1 (EN05F41) in order the seagoing service is justified.

**Equivalent approved seagoing service**

The equivalent approved seagoing service shall be calculated in accordance with one of the following criteria. For this purpose the sea area north of latitude 60° N may be considered as equivalent polar waters area on the condition that 20% of the voyage in duration or distance is performed in Arctic Waters as defined by SOLAS Ch. XIV ( see appended Figure 2 of the Polar Code)

a) Distance criteria.

The distance in nautical miles travelled by the vessel in polar waters/equivalent polar waters during the seagoing service of the seafarer divided by 200 will sum the equivalent approved seagoing service in days.

The management company (DOC holder) of the ship shall issue a report in the form of table 2 (EN05F42) in order the equivalent seagoing service is justified.

b) Hours of work criteria

The hours of work, on board a vessel while operating in polar waters/equivalent polar waters, performing duties in the deck department divided by 160 will sum the equivalent approved seagoing service in months.

The management company (DOC holder) of the ship shall issue a report in the form of table 3 (EN05F43) in order the equivalent seagoing service is justified.



**Figure 2 – Maximum extent of Arctic waters application**