



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Circular No. 5/2015

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 4.2.12.03

To all Registered owners, Registered bareboat charterers
Managers and Representatives of ships flying the Cyprus Flag



DEPARTMENT
OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

26 January 2015

Subject: - Safety of vessels under Cyprus Flag calling or approaching ports/countries where armed/civil conflicts take place.
- Port Situation in Libya.

1. I refer to the above subject, and I wish to bring to your attention the following:
2. As you may have already been informed, on the 5th January 2015 the Greek-owned tanker "Araevo" was bombed by military jets of the internationally recognised government of Libya, at the port of Derna, due to the suspicious actions of the said vessel, as claimed by the spokesman, Ahmed al-Mesmari, of the internationally recognised government of Libya. Derna is reported to be under the control of Islamic extremists who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group.
3. In addition to the above, it has come to our attention that the Libyan Air Force issued a Notice that any vessels approaching the port of Misurata/Misrata will be subject to airstrikes beginning as of 9 January 2015.
4. Moreover, according to news updates notified recently by certain Protection & Indemnity Clubs, the port situation in Libya as of 16 January 2015 seems to be as follows:

Open ports:

- Mellitah
- Zawia
- Tripoli
- Khoms
- Misurata/Misrata – however please see comment in paragraph 3 above
- Marsa El Brega
- Marsa Al Heriga
- Tobruk

Closed ports:

- Essider

- Ras Lanuf
 - Benghazi
 - Derna
5. The Department of Merchant Shipping recommends to the owners, managers and operators of Cyprus' ships to limit to the strict minimum any callings and transactions at foreign ports/countries where political instability and/or armed/civil conflicts take place (or are evidently imminent) and advises to exercise increased vigilance and maintain close communication at all times with Port- and Flag State authorities and local shipping agents, in accordance with the requirements of the ISPS Code.
- We recommend this approach even in cases where such visited ports/countries are not subjected to UN and/or EU economic sanctions.
6. A regularly updated list of all the European Union restrictive measures in force can be found at http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/docs/measures_en.pdf
7. The text of European Union instruments may be found on <http://eur-lex.europa.eu> whereas the text of United Nations Security Resolutions may be found on <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>.
8. All recipients of the present Circular are invited to take note of its content.

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



Andreas I. Chrysostomou
Acting Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

Cc: - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works

- Attorney General of the Republic
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Public Order
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
- Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
- General Manager, Cyprus Ports Authority
- Director, Department of Customs and Excise
- Registrar of Companies
- Commander, Cyprus Marine Police
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Shipping Association
- Cyprus Bar Association