

REPUBLIC



OF CYPRUS

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS**

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20 Οκτωβρίου 2006

TO Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships under the Cyprus Flag

Recognised Security Organisations (RSO's):

American Bureau of Shipping
Bureau Veritas
China Classification Society
Det Norske Veritas
Germanischer Lloyd
Hellenic Register of Shipping
Korean Register of Shipping
Lloyd's Register of Shipping
Nippon Kaiji Kyokai
Rusian Maritime Register of Shipping
RINA

Subject: Maritime Security – Monitoring the application of Regulation (EC) 725/2005 and ISPS code by Cyprus flag ships

I wish to inform you that the Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS), has decided to issue supplementary instructions related to maritime security based on the experience gained so far.

The new instructions as well as their implementation date are set out in Appendix 1 . You are urged to proceed expeditiously to ensure full compliance with these requirements in time.

All information and recent developments on maritime security are available on the official web page of the Department of Merchant Shipping (www.shipping.gov.cy) under the title MARITIME SECURITY and you are kindly requested to consult this frequently for updates (recommended to refresh the page) related to the implementation of the provisions of Regulation (EC) 725/2004, Chapter XI-2 of SOLAS 74 as amended and the ISPS Code.

Offices: Kyllinis Street, Mesa Geitonia, Lemesos, Cyprus

Postal Address: P.O.Box 56193, 3305 Lemesos, Cyprus

Telephone: +357 25848100, Telefax: +357 25848200,

E-mail : maritimeadmin@dms.mcw.gov.cy, Web page <http://www.shipping.gov.cy>

This Circular must be placed on board ships 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
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Republic
Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Cyprus Shipping Council
Cyprus Union of Ship Owners
Cyprus Bar Association

Encl.
GMD/

APPENDIX 1

INSTRUCTIONS ON MARITIME SECURITY

The following information and procedures must be readily available and must be followed for maritime security related matters:

1. Changes to Ship Security plans (ISPS Code, Part A, 9.5)

Changes to ship security plans must be applied only after these have been approved by the Recognised Organisation (RSO) that has approved the Ship Security Plan (SSP) and has issued the ship's International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC).

The following are considered significant cases necessitating changes to the ship security plans, which must be submitted for approval:

- When a ship has undergone a major conversion as defined by SOLAS 74 as amended.
- When any or all of the restricted areas have been changed.
- When new surveillance equipment and related equipment is installed on board for monitoring the security of the ship and these have not been included in the approved SSP.
- When procedures related to the SSP and actions taken when the ship is on security level 1, 2 and 3 are modified.
- Trading of the ship in areas that have not been covered by the ship security assessment.

All ships must comply with this instruction immediately.

2. Language of the Ship Security Plans (ISPS Code, Part A, 9.4)

It is the responsibility of the Management Company to designate the language as follows:

" the Company should designate a command language and a working language for communications between shipboard personnel and shore based management. To this end if the command and the working languages are other than English, then the SSP's should also be written in English.

All SSP's must comply with this instruction the latest by 31 March 2007.

3. Interface with ships or ports that are not subject to the Requirement of Regulation (EC) 725/2004, Art 3.8

In every SSP, provisions should be made to ensure that security is not compromised by any ship to port or ship to ship activity, with a port or a ship which are not subject to the provisions of the ISPS Code and Art. 3.8 of Regulation (EC) 725/2004.

All ships must comply with this instruction immediately.

4. Conducting Ship Security Exercises (ISPS Code, Part B, 13.7)

When exercises are conducted - at least once in every calendar year with no more than eighteen (18) months between exercises - the Department of Merchant Shipping must be notified in writing by the Company Security Officer, one (1) week in advance, during normal working hours as per Circular 6/2006. The exercise scenario must be communicated to the Department of Merchant Shipping – Maritime Security Section.

The Company should ensure that, for its entire fleet, at least once every year, a ship to shore exercise is carried out involving one (1) ship (or more ships if so wished). Each year, a different ship (if one ship is chosen to conduct the exercise every year) must be selected when conducting the exercises.

The involvement of the Department of Merchant Shipping will be limited to the testing of efficient communication with the CSO and the successful transmission of a SSAS alert (if this is included in the exercise scenario).

Finally, the CSO should submit a brief evaluation report regarding the conduct of the exercise.

All ships must comply with this instruction immediately.