



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

Circular No. 21/2004

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 12.3.02.20

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

14 May 2004

Subject: Implementation of EU Harmonising Legislation: The Merchant Shipping (Organisation of Working Time of Seafarers) Law of 2003

1. I refer to the above subject and wish to inform you that the *Merchant Shipping (Organisation of Working Time of Seafarers) Law of 2003 (Law 79(I)/2003)* was enacted for the purposes of transposing into our national legislation the following European Union Directives:
 - *Directive 99/95/EC* concerning the enforcement of provisions in respect of seafarers' hours of work on board ships calling at Community ports;
 - *Directive 1999/63/EC* concerning the Agreement on the organisation of working time of seafarers concluded by the ECSA and the FST;
 - *Directive 93/104/EC* concerning certain aspects of the organization of working time (article 17b) as amended by Directive 2000/34/EC.
2. The *Merchant Shipping (Organisation of Working Time of Seafarers) Law of 2003* is now legally in force since the 1st of May 2004 (date of accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU), by virtue of a Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic (see P.I. 174/2004, published in the Official Gazette No. 3827, Supplement III (I), dated 26.03.2004).
3. This Law contains enforcement measures providing for penalties against ships that will be identified as not being in compliance with the provisions of the said Law.
4. Further details and requirements with regard to the effective implementation of this harmonising legislation will be communicated to you by a new Circular to be issued in the next few weeks.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

- cc. - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
- Permanent Secretary, Planning Bureau
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
 - Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
 - Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
 - Association of Cypriot Shipowners (Searovers) Ltd
 - Cyprus Shipping Council
 - Union of Cypriot Shipowners
 - Cyprus Bar Association
 - Recognised Classification Societies
 - PEO Trade Union
 - SEK Trade Union

LMK