



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY
OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



DEPARTMENT
OF
MERCHANT SHIPPING
LIMASSOL

Circular No. 56/2012

29 October 2012

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Registered owners, registered bareboat charterers,
managers, operators and masters of
ships flying the Cyprus flag

Subject: The Protection of Cyprus Ships Against Acts of Piracy and Other Unlawful Acts Law of 2012

1 I refer to the above matter and further to Circular No. 27/2012, I wish to inform you that a corrigendum to the Law - which was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic No. 4339, Supplement I(I), of 15 June 2012 - has been published in the Official Gazette of the Republic No. 4355, Supplement I(I), of 21 September 2012. The corrigendum concerns two pages of the Law, which in the 15 June 2012 publication have been published in the wrong order.

2 An unofficial translation of the Law in the English language is now available on the Department's web-site and can be downloaded.

3 As the Law has a global application and sets out rights, duties and responsibilities for the masters of ships flying the Cyprus flag and for the shipboard personnel, you are advised to send a copy of the Law to all ships flying the Cyprus flag under your ownership, bareboat charter, management or operation.

4 The Department has received, since mid-September 2012, a significant number of applications from legal entities seeking certification under the provisions of the Law, as private ship security companies. Concurrently, the number of ships for which applications are submitted for the use of armed private ship security guards has been increasing.

5 Applications from legal entities are dealt with on a "first come first served" basis and there is a considerable number of applications the examination of which is still pending. Unfortunately, some applications require extensive correspondence with, and further submissions by, the applicant, understandably, as this is the first stage of the implementation of the provisions of the Law.

6 The Department has given, and will continue to give, priority in the examination of applications relating to individual ships, over applications from legal entities. The main purpose of the Law is to enhance the security of ships flying the Cyprus flag and the protection of those serving or travelling on them, whilst providing a framework through which the ship-owner can protect his assets. This approach admittedly is causing difficulties at the practical level on the implementation of the provisions of the Law and a number of legal entities have expressed disappointment due to the time it takes to



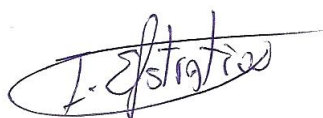
receive a response from the Department. The Department expects the situation to improve during the next weeks.

7 The Law envisages the publication of a List of private ship security companies, which have been certified as complying with the requirements of the Law. At this stage, a number of private ship security companies have demonstrated **substantial compliance** with the provisions of the Law however, as there are pending matters, the relevant certificate has not yet been issued to them.

8 The annex to this Circular sets out a List of such private ship security companies and those concerned can conclude written private agreements with them for the provision of armed or unarmed private ship security guards to their ships. In such cases, the Department will contact the private ship security company and will request them to provide any documentation relating to private ship security guards, firearms or security-related equipment, taking into account the application relating to the ship, in case such information has not been previously provided to the Department. In this respect, it is noted that some legal entities, when they applied for certification as private ship security companies, have only provided information for a limited number of private ship security guards, firearms or security-related equipment.

9 The attached list will be periodically updated by the Department and those concerned are strongly advised to contact the Department, as soon as they decide to use armed or unarmed private ship security guards, with a view of ascertaining whether the legal entity they contemplate to engage is on the list, or has applied and the examination of its application is pending. In the latter case, the Department will advance the examination of the application of the legal entity and will inform the requesting party whether the legal entity of its interest has demonstrated **substantial compliance** with the provisions of the Law and as a result, it can use its services as a private ship security company.

10 Regrettably, the Department continues to receive applications relating to ships a couple of days before the planned embarkation of the private ship security guards or naming as the private ship security company a legal entity which has not applied for certification or which has submitted an application a few days before or at the same time as the application relating to the ship. Whilst the Department makes every effort to deal with such matters, this is done to the detriment of other applicants.



Ioannis Efstratiou
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
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad

Diplomatic and Consular Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Chief of Cyprus Police
Director, Department of Customs and Excise
General Manager, Cyprus Ports Authority
Cyprus Shipping Chamber
Cyprus Union of Shipowners
Cyprus Bar Association
Seafarers' Unions PEO, SEK, DEOK

Enclosures: Annex

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Annex

**List of legal entities which have demonstrated substantial compliance
with the provisions of Law 77(I) of 2012 as private ship security companies**

Incorporated in Cyprus

30 South Maritime Limited
Hart Security Limited

Incorporated in the United Arab Emirates

Control Risks Services Limited

Incorporated under the laws of England and Wales

Ambrey Risk Limited
DC RMS Ltd
Orchid Maritime Ltd
Port 2 Port Maritime Security Limited
Protection Vessels International Limited
Salamanca Risk Management Limited
Security Services (Maritime) Limited
Transafe Maritime (UK) Limited
Veritas International Consultancy Limited
