



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

Circular No 15/2006

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21 July 2006

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

Subject: Situation in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

The Department of Merchant Shipping, as a result of the escalating crisis in Lebanon and the imposed military blockade by the Government of Israel on Lebanese ports and adjacent waters with the affected coordinates being **034 05N** and **33 06 N** and **East of 034 00E to the coast line** (covering the coast of Lebanon including the port of Beirut), wishes to inform and advise all Masters of Cyprus flag ships of the following:

- 1) Due vigilance and caution must be exercised while approaching the above mentioned area of the Eastern Mediterranean and approach this area only if absolutely necessary;
- 2) Follow and adapt to the Security Levels of Ports in the area and take all appropriate measures necessary as per the Ship Security Plans of Cyprus flag ships and the provisions of the International Ship Security and Port Facility Code (ISPS).
- 3) Follow the instructions of any naval ships in the area.

You are further informed that according to the latest travel advice for Lebanon issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, Cypriot nationals are advised to refrain from visiting the southern areas of Lebanon and the areas near the borders of Lebanon and Israel.

Additionally, it is recommended that, travel to any other areas where military activities pose a risk to life be avoided.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Lebanon keep the situation under close monitor and urge nationals currently in Lebanon to contact the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Lebanon, should they require any assistance whatsoever at the following numbers: 0096 11 326461, 0096 11 329500, 0096 11 217902.

We shall revert for any further advice/ information.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

Cc: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications & Works
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Recognized Classification Societies
Cyprus Shipping Council
Cyprus Union of Shipowners
Cyprus Bar Association
PEO Trade Union
SEK Trade Union

LMK/GMD