



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
**MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS**



**DEPARTMENT
OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS**

Circular No 13/2008

6 August 2008

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 4.28.03.31
TEN 12.3.02.26

To all Owners, Managers
and Representatives of Ships
under the Cyprus Flag and Ships of all Flags entering or leaving Cyprus ports

**Subject: Issuing of Bunkers Convention Certificates-Translated text of Bunkers
Convention Ratification Law 19(III)/2004**

Further to the above matter and to my Circular No. 08/2008 of 12 June 2008, you are hereby informed as follows:

1. Our Department has prepared a translated into English text of the Bunkers Convention Ratification Law 19(III)/2004 which is available on our website (select the "Certification under the Bunkers Convention" link on the homepage).
2. The Owners, Managers and Representatives of Cyprus ships of a gross tonnage greater than 1,000 are reminded to apply well ahead of the due date for the issuing of Bunkers Convention Certificates (BCC) to their ships. It is recalled that all such ships should be duly certified on 21st November 2008, date of entry into force internationally of the Bunkers Convention.
3. It has been brought to our attention that in a number of cases the Evidence of Insurance (known as "Blue Cards") issued by P&I Clubs, members to the International Group, provide as expiration date of the period of insurance the 20th February 2009. This suggests that Bunkers Convention Certificates issued by our Administration, which are of a substantial number, would have to be renewed again in three months time i.e. in February 2009. Although this may facilitate the P&I Clubs in terms that the renewal period of Bunkers Convention Certificates and issuance of relevant Blue Cards coincide with other entries/ insurance coverage, should this procedure be followed, it will evidently overburden our Department as well as the applicants who will have to apply again soon in order to obtain their BCC covering the next February 2009-February 2010 period.

Therefore, our Department urges that, Blue Cards submitted have duration of one year, i.e. provide as period of insurance the 21st November 2008 to 20th November 2009.

4. Furthermore, you are hereby informed that, in order to facilitate international trade given the entry into force of the Bunkers Convention and having received relevant requests to this end, it has been decided that Cyprus should exercise its right as a State Party under Article 7(2) of the Convention, to issue a limited number of BCC to ships **flying the flag of non State Parties** to the following categories of ships (subject to the prerequisites of paragraph 5 below):

Category 1: Ships flying the flag of a non State Party intending to enter any port of the Republic of Cyprus open to international navigation; and

Category 2: (a) Ships registered *parallel-out (bareboat-out charter registration)* in a register of a non State Party and having Cyprus as their *underlying registration* (i.e. parallel registration of *Cyprus ships* in a foreign register and consequently flying the flag of a non State Party for the duration of the bareboat charter party); and

(b) any other ship flying the flag of a non State Party.

5. Our Department will not examine any application for certification of a non State Party ship if:

- (i) the Blue Card submitted does not originate from a member to the International Group of P&I Clubs due to restrictive time limits not enabling the carrying out of financial strength evaluation of other Clubs. This applies to both **Category 1 and Category 2 ships**;
- (ii) the ship is included in the List of ships that are currently being banned from accessing European Community ports pursuant to Article 7b of Directive 95/21/EC of 19 June 1995, on Port State Control, as amended. This applies to both **Category 1 and Category 2 ships**;
- (iii) the shipowner and or charterer or the Master of the ship has not forwarded to our Department, a pre-entry notification of the intention of the ship to enter voluntarily a port of the Republic of Cyprus, at least 3 days prior to the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA). This applies only to **Category 1 ships**.
- (iv) the flag which the non State Party ship is flying, appears in the Black List of the Paris MOU according to the Annual Report of the Paris MOU for the year preceding the date of the request. This applies only to **Category 2 (b) ships**;

6. The Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships under the Cyprus Flag and of Ships of non State Parties covered by the present Circular, are advised to abide by this Circular.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

- Cc:** -Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
- Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
-General Manager, Cyprus Ports Authority
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Shipping Association
- Cyprus Bar Association
-International Group of P&I Clubs

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