

**THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (REGISTRATION OF SEAFARERS AND THE SEAFARERS' REGISTER)
LAWS OF 2000 TO 2012**

(LAW 108(I)/2000 AS AMENDED)¹

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS ²

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¹ Consolidation Note: *The present consolidated text includes the text of basic Law 108(I)/2000 and the amendments introduced by Law 132(I)/2012. These Laws were published in the Greek language in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus. This is an “unofficial” consolidated translation into English prepared by the Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President (SDM) and does not intend to replace any translation prepared by the Law Commissioner’s Office.*

*According to Article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Cyprus, the official languages of the Republic of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish and therefore the present translation into English **is not the authentic version. The authentic and therefore legally binding version, is the Greek version of these Laws.***

Disclaimer: Consolidation entails the integration of basic instruments of Cyprus merchant shipping legislation, their amendments and corrections in single, non-official documents. Each document is intended for use as a documentation tool and the Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President of the Republic of Cyprus does not assume any liability for its content.

² Consolidation Note: *The present Arrangement of Sections is not forming part of the Laws-Statutes. It is added by the SDM to assist the reader.*

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PART I – PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

The House of Representatives enacts as follows:

Short title.

1. The present Law shall be cited as the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Seafarers and the Seafarers' Register) Laws of 2000 and 2012.

*108(I) of 2000
132(I) of 2012.*

Interpretation.

2. In the present Law , unless the context otherwise requires-

"certificate of maritime competency" has the meaning assigned to this term by *the Merchant Shipping (Issue and Recognition of Certificates and Marine Training) Law of 2000.*

"Company" includes physical person and as far as the ship is concerned, means the owner of the ship or any other organization or person such as the manager or the bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for the operation of the ship from the owner and who on assuming the responsibility has agreed to take over all duties and responsibilities under the Regulations attached to the STCW Convention.

"Minister" means the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works.³

"Register" means the Seafarer's Register which is maintained according to the provisions of section 5 of this Law;

"Republic" means the Republic of Cyprus;

"seafarer" includes the master;

"Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book" or in short with an equivalent meaning "SISR Book" means the seafarers identification and seagoing service record Book which is issued pursuant to the provisions of section 10 of this Law.

*8 of 1985
1(III) of 1998.*

"STCW Convention" means the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers, 1978, as amended in 1995 and was ratified by the Republic by *the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of*

³ Consolidation Note: As of 1st March 2018 by the effect of the provisions of section 4(2)(b) of *the Establishment of a Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President and Appointment of a Shipping Deputy Minister to the President and for Matters Connected Therewith Law of 2017 (Law 123(I)/2017)* this reference to the "Minister of Transport, Communications and Works" is now construed as a reference to the "Shipping Deputy Minister to the President".

2 of 132(I)/2012.

Seafarers, 1978 and 1995 (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Laws of 1985 and 1998 as this Convention stands in its up-to date version.

Scope of application.

3.-(1) The provisions of the present Law shall apply on all the seafarers serving on board Cyprus ships.

(2) The term "Cyprus Ship" in the present Law, has the meaning assigned to it by section 5 of *the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Ships, Sales and Mortgages) Laws of 1963 to 1996*.

45 of 1963
32 of 1965
82 of 1968
62 of 1973
102 of 1973
42 of 1979
25 of 1980
14 of 1982
57 of 1986
64 of 1987
28(I) of 1995
37(I) of 1996.

Competent Authority.

4. The Competent Authority for the implementation of the provisions of the present Law and the Regulations issued there under, the registration of seafarers and the keeping of the Register, is the Minister and by the Minister authorized persons as the case might be.

PART II – SEAFARERS REGISTRATION

Seafarers' Register.

5.- (1) The Competent Authority shall be responsible for the registration of the seafarers and for keeping of the Register, as defined in the following provisions.

(2) Seafarers shall be called all the people working at sea on board a ship, irrespective of gender, and shall, upon application, be registered as such in the Register, pursuant to the following provisions.

(3) The Company, the latest within thirty days from a seafarer's employment on board, must submit to the Competent Authority the necessary documents for his registration.

(4) Exceptionally, other professionals who are non-registered seafarers, are allowed to work on Cyprus ships for such specialized positions not included in the organizational structure of the crew.

3 of 132(I)/2012.

(5) Any Company which contravenes its obligations under subsection (3), shall, if convicted, be liable to a fine not exceeding two thousand Euro (€ 2000).

Qualifications for registration .
4 of 132(I)/2012.

6.- (1) Seafarers who are healthy and physically able for seagoing labor, shall be registered in the Register , provided their age is at least sixteen years, and following the registration they will be supplied with a Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book, pursuant to the following provisions.

(2) Persons, who are below the age of eighteen, shall be required, for registration reasons to present the written consent of their legal guardian.

Particulars of the Register.

7.- (1) The Register shall contain in order the following details :

- Serial number of the SISR Book
- Date of issue of the SISR Book
- Seafarers Details:

Nationality
Surname, First name, Fathers Name
Other names
Place of birth
Date of birth
Name, Surname and address of next of kin
Any remarks

The above-mentioned details are filled in on the basis of the documents submitted to the Competent Authority.

(2) The sea service of each seafarer shall be registered in the Register. For this purpose, the following information shall be registered :

Details of the ship on which the sea service was acquired and in particular, the name, the type, the gross tonnage, the main engine's total power, the International (IMO) Number, as well as information on the sea service and in particular the specialization-rank, the date of engagement and discharge of the seafarer.

(3) The certificate of competency, which the seafarer possesses, is recorded in the Register.

(4) Any interested seafarer may request and receive from the Competent Authority a certificate which proves his sea service as it is registered in his file of the Register.

Register number.

8. The Register number of the seafarer consists of one letter (M or F) and ten (10) digits. The first two digits shall indicate the country of nationality, the following six the date of birth and the last two the serial

Personal registration file.

number in the Register, for those who have identical the previous eight digits.

9.- (1) The registration documents of each registered seafarer, shall be kept in a personal registration file, on the cover of which the name and surname of the registered seafarer and the serial Number of his SISR Book shall be stated.

(2) The personal registration files shall be kept in the Register of the Competent Authority in the order of the serial number of the SISR Book.

PART III- SEAFARERS IDENTIFICATION AND SEA-SERVICE RECORD BOOK

Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book.

10.- (1) The Competent Authority shall issue a Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book to all registered seafarers. The number of said Book shall be kept by the method of serial number. The number C000001 will be given to the first Book to be issued after the date of this Law coming into force.

(2) The SISR Book shall be valid for a period of ten years from the date of its issue, after which a new one shall be issued by the Competent Authority, pursuant to the provisions of this Law.

(3) The employment and discharge of the seafarer shall be effected by the master.

Type and content of the SISR Book.

11.- (1) The cover of the SISR Book shall be plasticized and the Book shall contain in total thirty two (32) inside pages.

(2) On the front external cover of the Book the logo of Cyprus and an anchor shall be printed in relief. Above the logo shall be printed in Greek and English language, in capital letters, REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS – MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS - DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING⁴, and underneath that logo, SEAFARERS IDENTIFICATION AND SEA SERVICE RECORD BOOK.

(3) The Book's pages shall be printed on appropriate colored paper of 14 ½ x 9 ½ centimeters in external dimensions, and bear the logo and the anchor on the front page.

(4) The serial number of the page and of the Book shall be stated on every page.

⁴ Consolidation Note: As of 1st March 2018 by the effect of the provisions of section 4(2)(d) of the *Establishment of a Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President and Appointment of a Shipping Deputy Minister to the President and for Matters Connected Therewith Law of 2017 (Law 123(I)/2017)* this reference to the " Department of Merchant Shipping " is now construed as a reference to the " Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President ".

(5) The following are included in the pages of the Book:

Page 1 , for the recording of the Serial Number of the Book and the bearers register number ;

5(a) of 132(I)/2012.

Page 2, for the recording of the bearer's personal details and placing of his photograph. The above mentioned shall be printed in the English language as well;

5(b) of 132(I)/2012.

Page 3, for the signature of the holder and the stamp of the Competent Authority;

5(b) of 132(I)/2012.

Page 4, for the recording of useful instructions for the seafarer in Greek;

5(c) of 132(I)/2012.

Page 5, for the recording of useful information for the seafarer in English;

Page 6, for the recording of heading and indications in Greek and English for the pages that follow;

Page 7-32 for the recording of entries of engagement and discharge of seafarers. Each page shall be used for the insertion of only one entry of engagement and the corresponding to this discharge. The relevant indications shall be printed in Greek and English. In case where, for any reason, such entries are not recorded or have been wrongly recorded, the Competent Authority shall proceed with the appropriate entries;

(6) The Competent Authority may differentiate the allocation and the content of the pages as described in the previous paragraph;

(7) Where necessary, subject to the provisions below, to be issued copy of the Book , upon application by a seafarer, the indication COPY will be stamped on pages 1 and 2 diagonally;

(8) If the health examination report provides, due to some illness of the seafarer to be registered, limited ability of engagement, then pages 2 and 7-32 shall be stamped diagonally with the indication " MAY BE EMPLOYED ONLY IN THE PERSONNEL SECTION.....", and thereafter the section of personnel or the specialization(engine or general services or ...) for which he may be engaged on board , shall be stated in accordance with the respective indication of the abovementioned report. The indication shall be stated in English.

*Replacement
in case of lost
or wear of
the
SISR Book.*

12.- (1) In case where the seafarer loses his SISR Book or the Book sustains such damages so as to make it impossible either to ascertain the identity in details or the filling of various recordings in it, the seafarer shall, upon application ,be furnished by the Competent Authority with a new Book bearing the indication COPY, according to the provisions

above, and shall pay the appropriate fee as prescribed by the Competent Authority.

(2) The loss and the circumstances, under which the SISR Book was lost, must be certified by the Competent Authority or by a Consular Authority of the Republic. These Authorities may request from the seafarer any details that may be considered necessary to ensure that there has been no fraudulent loss and that the loss was accidental, regardless of the will of the seafarer. A relevant written statement shall be submitted by the seafarer with his application for the replacement of the Book.

(3) When a copy of the SISR Book is issued, a relevant entry is made in the remark column of the seafarers file in the Register in which the cause and the date of the issue of the copy will be stated.

*Issue of
new
SISR Book.*

13. A new Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book shall be issued when the one in use be completed. In this case, the Book which is replaced remains in the possession of the seafarer.

*Printing
and issue
of SISR Books.*

14.- (1) The Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Books are printed at the cost and under the supervision of the Republic and are made available by the Competent Authority upon payment of a prescribed fee.

(2) The reprinting and disposition of the Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Books by another person is forbidden. Breach of said provision constitutes an offence punished upon conviction with a fine not exceeding two thousand Euro (€ 2000).

6 of 132(I)/2012.

*Application for
issue of the
SISR Book
and required
documentation.
7 of 132(I)/2012.*

15.- (1) The Company must deposit with the Competent Authority a specific application form accompanied by the following :

- (a) Copy of the pages of the passport in which the identification details of the seafarer are recorded and from which his identity can be deducted;
- (b) Copy of a medical fitness certificate from which it derives that he is physically and mentally capable to be registered as a seafarer;
- (c) Two recent photographs;
- (d) The fee for the Book prescribed by the Competent Authority;
- (e) A Certificate of criminal record or a statement by the master, the Company or the previous employer, in respect of the seafarer's character.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) , a seafarer who permanently resides in Cyprus and wishes to be registered , may deposit at the Competent Authority an application form in person , providing the following certificates :

(a) Valid Passport or Identification Card from which his identity can be deducted;

- (b) Copy of a medical fitness certificate from which it derives that he is physically and mentally capable to be registered as a seafarer;
- (c) two recent photographs;
- (d) The fee for the Book prescribed by the Competent Authority;
- (e) A Certificate of criminal record or a statement by the master, the Company or the previous employer, in respect of the seafarer's character.

(3) In the application it must be stated whether the candidate for registration has been supplied in the past with another Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book.

(4) The Competent Authority shall ensure, following a search in the Register, that the said applicant is registered for the first time.

(5) The application form and the documents-certificates mentioned under subsection (1) of the present section, may be deposited by the Company in electronic form in a manner determined by the Competent Authority.

*Refusal of the
Competent
Authority
for issue
of a SISR Book .*

16.- (1) The Competent Authority may refuse the application for issue of a SISR Book , if the applicant for registration has been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding six months or has been convicted for smuggling, theft, fraud, trading or use of drugs or is for any other reason deemed to be unsuitable for registration.

(2) In case the Competent Authority refuses to issue the SISR Book, the decision duly justified shall be copied in writing to the applicant, who has the right within a time limit of forty five days from the notification of the decision, to require re-examination of his application and the carrying out of an inquiry.

(3) Said inquiry shall be carried out by two marine surveyors of the Department of Merchant Shipping⁵ , designated for this purpose by the Director of the Department⁶. Upon completion of the inquiry, the surveyors shall issue a report and deposit it at the Competent Authority, who will decide on the application for re- examination.

⁵ Consolidation Note: As of 1st March 2018 by the effect of the provisions of section 4(2)(d) of *the Establishment of a Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President and Appointment of a Shipping Deputy Minister to the President and for Matters Connected Therewith Law of 2017 (Law 123(I)/2017)* this reference to the “ Department of Merchant Shipping ” is now construed as a reference to the “ Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President”.

⁶ Consolidation Note: As of 1st March 2018 by the effect of the provisions of section 4(2)(e) of *the Establishment of a Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President and Appointment of a Shipping Deputy Minister to the President and for Matters Connected Therewith Law of 2017 (Law 123(I)/2017)* this reference to the “Director of the Department of Merchant Shipping ” is now construed as a reference to the “Permanent Secretary of the Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President”.

PART IV – FINAL PROVISIONS

Making of Regulations.

17.- (1) The Council of Ministers has the power to make Regulations in order to regulate any matter which under this Law needs or is capable of receiving regulation.

(2) The Regulations issued by virtue of the provisions of the present Law, shall be deposited at the House of Representatives, who has the power to approve or reject them, within a time limit of sixty days from the date of their deposit. If the House of Representatives approves the Regulations or the time limit of sixty days elapses, the Regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or the Republic and shall enter into force from the date of their publication.

Repeal of provisions.

18. With the present Law, section 105 of *the Merchant Shipping (Masters and Seamen) Laws of 1963 to 1997* is repealed.

8 of 132(I)/2012.

19. *[Section 19 which related to a reservation was deleted -repealed by section 8 of relevant Amendment Law 132(I)/2012].*

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