



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS



DEPARTMENT
OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

Circular No. 1/2016

14 January 2016

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All Private Ship Security Companies

Subject: (1) Private Ship Security Companies - The Protection of Cyprus Ships against Acts of Piracy and Other Unlawful Acts Law of 2012
(2) Circular by virtue of sections 70 and 81 of Law 77(I)/2012

I refer to the above subject and I wish to inform you that the Competent Authority, based on the experience gained through the implementation of the Protection of Cyprus Ships against Acts of Piracy and Other Unlawful Acts Law of 2012 ("the Law"), the services provided by the Private Ship Security Companies ("PSSCs") to Cyprus ships and the related operational issues, has decided, in accordance with sections 70 and 81 of the Law, to issue the following instructions in order to regulate the number of the private ship security guards and firearms a PSSC might register on the record of its Cyprus certificate issued pursuant to section 22(1) of the Law-

- **Ratio between guards and firearms:** The number of firearms shall be proportional to the number of guards at a ratio of two (2) to one (1). That is, for each approved private ship security guard, the PSSC can register on its Cyprus certificate up to two (2) firearms and vice-versa.
- **Maximum number of firearms:** The maximum total number of firearms a PSSC is entitled to register on its Cyprus certificate shall not exceed four hundred (400).
- **Withdrawal of Certificate:** The PSSC's certificate shall be automatically withdrawn if a PSSC does not provide any service to a Cyprus ship for a continuous period of one calendar year as from 1 January 2016.

The aforementioned measures are implemented as from **1 January 2016**.

2. Furthermore, it is noted that the various fees payable for services rendered by the Competent Authority by virtue of the provisions of the Law are currently under review and they will be amended in the near future. The Director of the Department of Merchant Shipping exercising the powers vested upon him under section 86 of the Law, will issue a new Notification for the determination of the fees and all PSSCs will be accordingly informed in due time.

3. It is recalled that pursuant to the provisions of the Law and in particular section 88, compliance with the provisions of the Law should be safeguarded by all persons (natural or legal) upon whom an obligation is imposed by the Law. Failure to comply with the provisions



of the Law and any instructions pertaining to the implementation of the Law issued by the Competent Authority (see sections 70 and 81) may result-

- (i) in the withdrawal of the Certificate in accordance with section 36 of the Law, and/or
- (ii) in criminal proceedings being instituted for a criminal offence punishable by a sentence of imprisonment up to two years and/ or a fine up to €20,000 (see section 89 of the Law).

Thus, all PSSCs are hereby urgently instructed to comply with the Competent Authority's instructions/ measures announced via this Circular.

3.1 Therefore, a PSSC having more than four hundred (400) firearms registered on its certificate must forthwith submit an application to the DMS for the deletion of the additional firearms. No fees will be charged by the DMS for the deletion of the additional firearms.

3.2. Furthermore, a PSSC having more firearms registered on its certificate than is permitted by the applicable ratio (up to two (2) firearms for each guard) must submit an application to the DMS for the addition of the required additional number of private ship security guards or for the deletion of the required number of firearms. In case of addition of guards the relevant fee must be paid.



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- Cc.**
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 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Public Order
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 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Welfare 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