



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

Circular 43 /2004

DMS 5.13.09

DMS 32/14/01

7 September 2004

All Owners, Managers and Representatives of Ships
under the Cyprus Flag

Subject: Participation in the AMVER System

For the sake of maritime safety and in order to assist ships and persons in distress at sea, you are kindly urged to instruct your ships to participate in the AMVER system.

AMVER, the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue system, sponsored by the US. Coast Guard, is a unique, computer based and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With AMVER, rescue coordination can identify participating ships in the area of a distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond.

Participation in the AMVER system is free, voluntary and open to merchant ships of all flags. Participation is generally limited to ships over 1000 GT on a voyage of 24 hour or longer. Ships incur no additional obligation to respond than already exists under international law of the sea. In fact, since AMVER identifies the best ship or ships to respond, it releases other vessels to continue their voyage, saving fuel, time and payroll costs.

Information sent to AMVER is protected and used only in a bona fide maritime emergency.

To enrol in AMVER, a ship, company or agent must complete a Search and Rescue Questionnaire (SAR-Q) indicating such information as the ship's call sign, propulsion, communications capability, radio watch and medical personnel on board.

The following reports are needed for every voyage:

- (a) Sail plan
- (b) Position Report: every 48 hours
- (c) Deviation Reports
- (d) Arrival Report

Voyage reports may be transmitted via:

- (a) Electronic Mail via the Internet to: amvermsg@amver.org
- (b) Inmarsat – C via: AMVER/SEAS Message or Code 43
- (c) Telex to: (0) 230 127594 AMVERNYK

The U.S. Coast Guard, in appreciation of the participation in the AMVER System, presents AMVER awards to ships accumulating 128 days on the AMVER plot in a calendar year. Companies receive a Letter of Appreciation signed by the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Ships receive a certificate for each year of participation. After the first year, a ship receives a blue Amver pennant. After five years, it can display a gold pennant and after 10 years a purple pennant. A plaque is awarded for 15 years and an inscribed pewter plate is awarded for 20 years' continuous participation.

For more information, you may access the following Internet sites:

- **USCG – General** = <http://www.uscg.mil/>
- **USCG SAR** = <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opr/sar.htm>
- **AMVER** = www.amver.com
- **GMDSS** = <http://www.navcen.uscg.mil/marcomms/gmdss/>
- **COSPAS-SARSAT** = <http://www.cospas-sarsat.org/> **OR:** <http://psbsgi1.nesdis.noaa.gov:8080/SARSAT/homepage.html>
- **Marine Safety** = <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/gmhome.htm>
- **Port State Control** = <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/psc.htm>
- **NVICs** = <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/>
- **IMO** = <http://www.imo.org/>

This Department greatly appreciates the participation of Cyprus flag Ships in the AMVER system.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

cc. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Cyprus Shipping Council
Association of Cypriot Shipowners (Searovers) Ltd
Union of Cypriot Shipowners
Cyprus Bar Association

SSS/CHK

d5.13.09aa