



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

Circular No. 11/2004

20 April, 2004

To all Owners  
Managers, Representatives and Masters  
Of vessels flying the Cyprus flag

**Subject: Phasing out Single Hull Tankers**

As you are already aware, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, Cyprus will become a full member of the European Union and is bound to implement fully and effectively all European Union legislation.

The European Union Parliament and Council Regulation 417/2002, as amended by Parliament and Council Regulation 2099/2002 and Parliament and Council Regulation 1726/2003, on the accelerated phasing – in of double hull or equivalent design requirements for single hull oil tankers, will be enforced by Cyprus on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

In general terms, this regulation applies to oil tankers entering the ports of a Member State or flying the flag of a Member State.

Article 4 of the regulation, specifies that category 1 single hull oil tankers delivered in 1981 or earlier and category 2 and 3 single hull oil tankers delivered in 1976 or earlier will have to comply with the double hull or equivalent design requirements before the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004.

In view of the above, for the uninterrupted operation of your vessel, you have to ensure compliance with the above regulations by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004.

A consolidated edition of the above regulation is herewith attached.

S. 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  
Recognised Classification Societies  
Cyprus Shipping Council  
Association of Cypriot Shipowners (Sea Rovers)  
Union of Cypriot Shipowners  
Cyprus Bar Association

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# Consolidated TEXT

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► **B** REGULATION (EC) No 417/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 18 February 2002

on the accelerated phasing-in of double hull or equivalent design requirements for single hull oil tankers and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2978/94

(OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 1)

Amended by:

	Official Journal		
	No	page	date
► <b><u>M1</u></b> Regulation (EC) No 2099/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 November 2002	L 324	1	29.11.2002
► <b><u>M2</u></b> Regulation (EC) No 1726/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003	L 249	1	1.10.2003



**REGULATION (EC) No 417/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**of 18 February 2002**

**on the accelerated phasing-in of double hull or equivalent design requirements for single hull oil tankers and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 2978/94**

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 80(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee <sup>(2)</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions <sup>(3)</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty <sup>(4)</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) Within the framework of the common transport policy, further measures must be taken to enhance safety and prevent pollution in maritime transport.
- (2) The Community is seriously concerned by the shipping accidents involving oil tankers and the associated pollution of its coastlines and harm to its fauna and flora and other marine resources.
- (3) In its communication 'a common policy on safe seas', the Commission underlined the request of the extraordinary Council on Environment and Transport of 25 January 1993 to support the action in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on the reduction of the safety gap between new and existing ships by upgrading and/or phasing out existing ships.
- (4) In its Resolution on a common policy on safe seas <sup>(5)</sup>, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission communication and called in particular for action to be taken to improve tanker safety standards.
- (5) By its Resolution of 8 June 1993 on a common policy on safe seas <sup>(6)</sup>, the Council fully supported the objectives of the Commission communication.
- (6) In its Resolution on the oil slick off the French coast adopted on 20 January 2000, the European Parliament welcomed any efforts by the Commission to bring forward the date by which oil tankers will be obliged to have a double-hull construction.
- (7) The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has established, in the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 and the Protocol of 1978 related thereto (MARPOL 73/78), internationally agreed pollution prevention rules affecting the design and operation of oil tankers. Member States are Parties to MARPOL 73/78.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 212 E, 25.7.2000, p. 121 and OJ C 154 E, 29.5.2001, p. 41.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ C 14, 16.1.2001, p. 22.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ C 22, 24.1.2001, p. 19.

<sup>(4)</sup> Opinion of the European Parliament of 30 November 2000 (OJ C 228, 13.8.2001, p. 140), Council Common Position of 7 August 2001 (OJ C 307, 31.10.2001, p. 41) and Decision of the European Parliament of 13 December 2001.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ C 91, 28.3.1994, p. 301.

<sup>(6)</sup> OJ C 271, 7.10.1993, p. 1.

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- (8) According to Article 3.3 of MARPOL 73/78, that Convention does not apply to warships, naval auxiliary or other ships owned or operated by a State and used only for government non-commercial services.
- (9) Comparison of tanker age and accident statistics shows increasing accident rates for older ships. It has been internationally agreed that the adoption of the 1992 amendments to MARPOL 73/78 requiring the application of the double hull or equivalent design standards to existing single hull oil tankers when they reach a certain age will provide those tankers with a higher degree of protection against accidental oil pollution in the event of collision or stranding.
- (10) It is in the Community's interest to adopt measures to ensure that oil tankers entering into ports and offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of Member States and that oil tankers flying the flags of Member States comply with Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 as revised in 2001 by Resolution MEPC 95(46) in order to reduce the risk of accidental oil pollution in European waters.
- (11) Amendments to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention adopted by the IMO on 6 March 1992 entered into force on 6 July 1993. These measures impose double hull or equivalent design requirements for oil tankers delivered on or after 6 July 1996 aimed at preventing oil pollution in the event of collision or stranding. Within these amendments, a phasing-out scheme for single hull oil tankers delivered before that date took effect from 6 July 1995 requiring tankers delivered before 1 June 1982 to comply with the double hull or equivalent design standards not later than 25 years and, in some cases, 30 years after the date of their delivery. Such existing single hull oil tankers would not be allowed to operate beyond 2007 and, in some cases, 2012 unless they comply with the double hull or equivalent design requirements of Regulation 13F of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78. For existing single hull oil tankers delivered after 1 June 1982 or those delivered before 1 June 1982 and which are converted, complying with the requirements of MARPOL 73/78 on segregated ballast tanks and their protective location, this deadline will be reached at the latest in 2026.
- (12) New important amendments to Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 were adopted on 27 April 2001 by the 46th session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC-46) by Resolution MEPC 95(46), entering into force on 1 September 2002, in which a new accelerated phasing-out scheme for single hull oil tankers was introduced. The respective final dates by which tankers must comply with Regulation 13F of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 depend on the size and age of the ship. Oil tankers are therefore in that scheme divided into three categories according to their tonnage, construction and age. All these categories, including the lowest one (3), are important for intra-Community trade.
- (13) The final date by which a single hull oil tanker is to be phased out is the anniversary of the date of delivery of the ship, according to a schedule starting in 2003 until 2007 for Category (1) oil tankers, and until 2015 for Category (2) and (3) oil tankers.
- (14) The revised Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 maintains the requirements for Category (1) tankers, after 25 years, to have wingtanks or double bottoms in protective locations not used for the carriage of cargo or to operate only with hydrostatically balanced loading.
- (15) That same Regulation introduces a requirement that Category (1) and (2) oil tankers may only continue to operate after the anniversary of the date of their delivery in 2005 and 2010 respectively subject to compliance with a Condition Assessment Scheme (CAS), adopted on 27 April 2001 by IMO in Resolution

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MEPC 94(46). The CAS imposes an obligation that the flag State administration issues a Statement of Compliance and is involved in the CAS survey procedures.

- (16) Paragraph 5 of the said Regulation allows for an exception for Category (2) and (3) oil tankers to operate, under certain circumstances, beyond the time-limit of their phasing-out. Paragraph 8b of the same Regulation gives the right for Parties to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention to deny entry into the ports or offshore terminals under their jurisdiction of oil tankers allowed to operate under this exception. Member States have declared their intention to use the right. Decision to have recourse to this right has to be communicated to the IMO.
- (17) It is important to ensure that the provisions in this Regulation do not endanger the safety of crew or oil tankers in search of a safe haven or a place of refuge.
- (18) In order to allow shipyards in Member States to repair single hull oil tankers, Member States may make exceptions to allow entry into their ports of such vessels, provided they are not carrying any cargo.
- (19) It should be possible to amend certain provisions of this Regulation so as to bring them into line with international instruments adopted, amended or entering into force after the entry into force of this Regulation without broadening its scope. Such amendments should be adopted in accordance with Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>.
- (20) In view of the approaching deadline for single hull oil tankers which do not comply with the requirements of MARPOL 73/78 on segregated ballast tanks and their protective location, and given that this is most relevant for Category (1) tankers, there are no reasons to maintain the differential charging system for which Regulation (EC) No 2978/94 <sup>(2)</sup> provides between such oil tankers and oil tankers that comply with the said requirements beyond 2007, and therefore Regulation (EC) No 2978/94 should be repealed,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Regulation is to establish an accelerated phasing-in scheme for the application of the double hull or equivalent design requirements of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention to single hull oil tankers ► **M2** , and to ban the transport to or from ports of the Member States of heavy grades of oil in single-hull oil tankers ◀.

*Article 2*

**Scope**

**▼M2**

1. This Regulation shall apply to oil tankers of 5 000 tonnes dead-weight and above:
  - entering or leaving a port or offshore terminal or anchoring in an area under the jurisdiction of a Member State, irrespective of their flag, or

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

<sup>(2)</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2978/94 of 21 November 1994 on the implementation of IMO Resolution A.747(18) on the application of tonnage measurement of ballast spaces in segregated ballast oil tankers (OJ L 319, 12.12.1994, p. 1).

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— flying the flag of a Member State.

For the purpose of Article 4(3), this Regulation shall apply to oil tankers of 600 tonnes deadweight and above.

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2. This Regulation shall not apply to any warship, naval auxiliary or other ship, owned or operated by a State and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service. Member States shall, so far as is reasonable and practicable, endeavour to respect this Regulation for the ships referred to in this paragraph.

*Article 3***Definitions**

For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

**▼M1**

1. 'Marpol 73/78' means the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as amended by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, in their up-to-date versions;

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2. 'revised Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78' shall mean the amendments to Regulation 13G of Annex I to MARPOL 73/78 and to the Supplement to the IOPP Certificate, as adopted by Resolution MEPC 94(46) of 27 April 2001 which enters into force on 1 September 2002;
3. 'oil tanker' shall mean an oil tanker as defined in Regulation 1(4) of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;
4. 'deadweight' shall mean deadweight as defined in Regulation 1(22) of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;
5. 'new oil tanker' shall mean a new oil tanker as defined in Regulation 1(26) of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;
6. 'category (1) oil tanker' shall mean an oil tanker of 20 000 tons deadweight and above carrying crude oil, fuel oil, heavy diesel oil or lubricating oil as cargo, and of 30 000 tons deadweight and above carrying oil other than the above, which does not comply with the requirements for new oil tankers as defined in Regulation 1(26) of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;
7. 'category (2) oil tanker' shall mean an oil tanker of 20 000 tons deadweight and above carrying crude oil, fuel oil, heavy diesel oil or lubricating oil as cargo, and of 30 000 tons deadweight and above carrying oil other than the above, which complies with the requirements for new oil tankers as defined in Regulation 1(26) of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;
8. 'category (3) oil tanker' shall mean an oil tanker of 5 000 tons deadweight and above but less than that specified in definitions 6 and 7;
9. 'single hull oil tanker' shall mean an oil tanker not meeting the double hull or equivalent design requirements of Regulation 13F of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;

**▼M2**

10. 'double-hull oil tanker' shall mean an oil tanker meeting the double-hull or equivalent design requirements of Regulation 13F of Annex I to Marpol 73/78. An oil tanker meeting the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of revised Regulation 13G of Annex I to Marpol 73/78 is also considered to be a double-hull oil tanker;

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11. 'age' shall mean the age of the ship, expressed in number of years after the date of its delivery;
12. 'heavy diesel oil' shall mean diesel oil as defined in revised Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;

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13. 'fuel oil' shall mean heavy distillates or residues from crude oil or blends of such materials as defined in revised Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78;

**▼M2**

14. 'heavy grades of oil' shall mean:

- (a) crude oils with a density at 15 °C of over 900 kg/m<sup>3</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>;
- (b) fuel oils with a density at 15 °C of over 900 kg/m<sup>3</sup> or a kinematic viscosity at 50 °C of over 180 mm<sup>2</sup>/s <sup>(2)</sup>;
- (c) bitumen and tar and emulsions thereof.

**▼B***Article 4***Compliance with the double hull or equivalent design requirements by single hull oil tankers**

1. No oil tanker shall be allowed to operate under the flag of a Member State, nor shall any oil tanker, irrespective of its flag, be allowed to enter into ports or offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of a Member State after the anniversary of the date of delivery of the ship in the year specified hereafter, unless such tanker is a double hull oil tanker:

**▼M2**

- (a) for category 1 oil tankers:
  - 2003 for ships delivered in 1980 or earlier,
  - 2004 for ships delivered in 1981,
  - 2005 for ships delivered in 1982 or later;
- (b) for category 2 and 3 oil tankers:
  - 2003 for ships delivered in 1975 or earlier,
  - 2004 for ships delivered in 1976,
  - 2005 for ships delivered in 1977,
  - 2006 for ships delivered in 1978 and 1979,
  - 2007 for ships delivered in 1980 and 1981,
  - 2008 for ships delivered in 1982,
  - 2009 for ships delivered in 1983,
  - 2010 for ships delivered in 1984 or later.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, oil tankers of category 2 or 3 which are equipped only with double bottoms or double sides not used for the transport of oil and extending for the whole length of the cargo tank, or with double-hulled spaces not used for the transport of oil and extending for the whole length of the cargo tank, but which do not meet the conditions for exemption from the provisions of paragraph 1(c) of revised Regulation 13G of Annex I to Marpol 73/78, may continue to be operated after the date referred to in paragraph 1, but not beyond the anniversary of the date of delivery of the ship in the year 2015 or the date on which the ship reaches the age of 25 years from its date of delivery, whichever is the sooner.

3. No oil tanker carrying heavy grades of oil, irrespective of its flag, shall be allowed to enter or leave ports or offshore terminals or to anchor in areas under the jurisdiction of a Member State, unless such tanker is a double-hull oil tanker.

<sup>(1)</sup> Corresponding to an API grade of less than 25,7.

<sup>(2)</sup> Corresponding to a kinematic viscosity of over 180 cSt.

**▼ M2**

4. Oil tankers operated exclusively in ports and inland navigation may be exempted from the obligation under paragraph 3 provided that they are duly certified under inland waterway legislation.

5. Oil tankers with a deadweight of less than 5 000 tonnes must comply with the provisions of paragraph 3 no later than the anniversary of the date of delivery of the ship in the year 2008.

6. Until 21 October 2005 a Member State may, in cases where ice conditions require the use of an ice-strengthened vessel, allow ice-strengthened single-hull oil tankers, equipped with double bottoms not used for the transport of oil and extending over the entire length of the cargo tank, carrying heavy grades of oil, to enter or leave a port or offshore terminal or anchor in an area under the jurisdiction of that Member State, provided that the heavy grades of oil are transported only in the vessel's central tanks.

*Article 5***Compliance with the condition assessment scheme for Category 2 and 3 ships**

Irrespective of its flag, a single-hull oil tanker above 15 years of age shall not be allowed to enter or leave ports or offshore terminals or anchor in areas under the jurisdiction of a Member State beyond the anniversary of the date of delivery of the ship, in 2005 for category 2 and category 3 ships, unless it complies with the condition assessment scheme referred to in Article 6.

*Article 6***Condition assessment scheme**

For the purposes of Article 5, the condition assessment scheme adopted by MEPC Resolution 94 (46) of 27 April 2001, as amended, shall apply.

**▼ B***Article 7***Final date**

After the anniversary of the date of delivery of the ship in 2015:

- the continued operation, in accordance with paragraph 5 of revised Regulation 13G of Annex I to MARPOL 73/78, of Category (2) and Category (3) oil tankers under the flag of a Member State, and
- the entry into the ports or offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of a Member State of other Category (2) and Category (3) oil tankers, irrespective of the fact that they continue to operate under the flag of a third State in accordance with paragraph 5 of revised Regulation 13G of Annex I to MARPOL 73/78,

shall no longer be allowed.

*Article 8***Exemptions for ships in difficulty or for ships to be repaired****▼ M2**

1. By way of derogation from Articles 4, 5 and 7, the competent authority of a Member State may, subject to national provisions, allow, under exceptional circumstances, an individual ship to enter or leave a port or offshore terminal or anchor in an area under the jurisdiction of that Member State, when:

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- an oil tanker is in difficulty and in search of a place of refuge,
- an unloaded oil tanker is proceeding to a port of repair.

2. Member States shall, in due time, but before 1 September 2002, communicate to the Commission the provisions of national law which

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they will apply in the circumstances referred to in paragraph 1. The Commission shall inform the other Member States thereof.

*Article 9***Notification to the IMO**

1. The Presidency of the Council, acting on behalf of the Member States, and the Commission shall jointly inform the IMO of the adoption of this Regulation, whereby reference shall be made to Article 211, paragraph 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
2. Each Member State shall inform the IMO of its decision to deny entry of oil tankers, pursuant to Article 7 of this Regulation, operating in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of revised Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 into the ports or offshore terminals under its jurisdiction, on the basis of paragraph 8(b) of revised Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78.
3. Each Member State shall notify the IMO if it allows, suspends, withdraws or declines the operation of a Category (1) or a Category (2) oil tanker entitled to fly its flag, in accordance with Article 5, on the basis of paragraph 8(a) of revised Regulation 13G of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78.

*Article 10***Committee procedure****▼M1**

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee on Safe Seas and the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (COSS) created by Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 2099/2002 of 5 November 2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Committee on Safe Seas and the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (COSS) <sup>(1)</sup>.

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2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, having regard to the provisions of Article 8 thereof.

The period laid down in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

3. The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.

*Article 11***Amendment procedure**

The references in the Articles of this Regulation to the regulations of Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 and to Resolutions MEPC 94(46) and 95(46) shall, if appropriate, be amended in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 10(2), in order to bring the references into line with amendments to these regulations and resolutions adopted by the IMO, in so far as such amendments do not broaden the scope of this Regulation.

**▼M1**

The amendments to the international instrument referred to in Article 3(1) may be excluded from the scope of this Regulation, pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2099/2002.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 324, 29.11.2002, p. 1.

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*Article 12*

**Repeal**

Council Regulation (EC) No 2978/94 is hereby repealed as from 31 December 2007.

*Article 13*

**Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from 1 September 2002.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.