



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

Circular No. 17/2004

TEN 5.13.09
TEN 12.3.02.13

To all Owners, Managers
and Representatives
of Ships under the Cyprus Flag

14 May 2004

Subject: Implementation of EU Harmonising Legislation: The Merchant Shipping (Harmonised Safety Regime for Fishing Vessels of 24 Metres in Length and Over) Laws of 2002 -2004

1. I refer to the above subject and wish to inform you of that the *Merchant Shipping Laws (Harmonised Safety Regime for Fishing Vessels of 24 Metres in Length and Over) of 2002-2004* (Law 56(I)/2002 as amended by Law 45(I)/2004) were enacted for the purposes of transposing into our national legislation the relevant European Union *Directive 97/70/EC* (as amended by Directives 1999/19/EC, 2002/35/EC and 2002/84/EC, article 6).

The text of the above Community Directive as amended is available on the European Union website at <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/> in “Legislation/ Directory of Community legislation in force in force/ Transport/ Shipping/ Maritime Safety”.

2. The *Merchant Shipping (Harmonised Safety Regime for Fishing Vessels of 24 Metres in Length and Over) Laws of 2002-2004* are now legally in force since the 1st of May 2004 (date of accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU), by virtue of a Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic (see P.I. 253/2004 and P.I. 254/2004, published in the Official Gazette No. 3840, Supplement III (I), dated 23.04.2004).
3. Law 56(I)/2002 is actually an *in texto* transposition of EU Directive 97/70/EC as amended. Under section 2 of this Law, a “new fishing vessel” is defined as a fishing vessel built on or after 1st May 2004. Additionally, an “existing fishing vessel” is defined in section 2 of the said Law as a fishing vessel which is not a new fishing vessel.
4. These Laws contain enforcement measures providing for penalties against fishing vessels that will be identified as not being in compliance with the provisions of the said Laws.

5. Further details and requirements with regard to the effective implementation of this harmonising legislation will be communicated to you by a new Circular to be issued in the next few weeks.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

- cc. - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
- Permanent Secretary, Planning Bureau
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Director, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research
 - Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
 - Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
 - Cyprus Shipping Council
 - Union of Cypriot Shipowners
 - Association of Cypriot Shipowners (Searovers) Ltd
 - Cyprus Bar Association
 - Recognised Classification Societies

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