



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
**MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS**

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24 February 2010

Cyprus Shipping Association

(Operators, Agents and Masters of ships)

Subject: SafeSeaNet- European Platform for Maritime Data Exchange

I refer to the above subject and wish to clarify certain problems which arose in the implementation of the proper and efficient operation of the SafeSeaNet and are directly related with the process to be followed by the ship/ship agents.

SafeSeaNet has developed a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system according to Directive 2002/59/EC, which has been transposed to the Cyprus legislation by virtue of law 131(I)/2004.

SafeseaNet, a European platform for maritime data exchange between member states and maritime authorities, is a network/Internet solution, based on the concept of a distributed database.

SafeSeaNet's main objective is to aid the collection, dissemination and harmonised exchange of maritime data. The network assists communication between authorities at local/regional level and central authorities, thus contributing to prevent accidents at sea and marine pollution.

The above Directive applies to ships of 300 gross tonnage and upwards.

This Directive shall not apply to:

- (a) warships, naval auxiliaries and other ships owned or operated by a Member State and used for non-commercial public service;
- (b) fishing vessels, traditional ships and recreational craft with a length of less than 45 metres;
- (c) bunkers below 5,000 tons, ships' stores and equipment for use on board ships.

The system distributes, many types of notification and alerts which are entered into the system by various users (maritime authorities, port authorities, ship agents etc), however I will focus only on two types of notifications, which cause major problems at the moment.

PORT NOTIFICATION

(Notification of a ship prior to entry into ports of the Republic of Cyprus)

The operator, ship agent or master of a ship bound for a port of the Republic of Cyprus or an anchorage or in the territorial waters shall notify the arrival of the ship to the Cyprus Port Authority (Announcement) by use of electronic means:

- (a) at least twenty-four hours in advance; or
- (b) at the latest, at the time the ship leaves the previous port, if the voyage time is less than twenty-four hours; or
- (c) if the port of call is not known or it is changed during the voyage, as soon as this information is available.

When the ETA and/or ETD of the ship has changed by 2 hours or more from the previous notification, a revised "Port Notification" message must be sent to the Cyprus Port Authority, including the new ETA and/or ETD of the ship by use of electronic means.

In the case of change of the port of destination during the voyage of the ship, the port Authority must be notified to cancel the announcement.

HAZMAT NOTIFICATION

(Notification of dangerous or polluting goods carried onboard)

The operator, agent or master of a ship, irrespective of size, carrying dangerous or polluting goods and departing from a non-EU, or EEA country (Iceland and Norway are EEA countries for the implementation of SSN) bound for a port of the Republic of Cyprus or carrying out a domestic voyage, shall notify the Cyprus Port Authority of the carriage of dangerous or polluting goods by use of electronic means:

- (a) at least twenty-four hours before the estimated time of arrival at a Cyprus Port; or
- (b) at the latest, at the time the ship leaves the previous port, if the voyage time is less than twenty-four hours; or
- (c) if the port of call is not known or it is changed during the voyage, as soon as this information is available.

Also the operator, ship agent or master of a ship, irrespective of size, carrying dangerous or polluting goods and departing from a port of the Republic of Cyprus bound for any foreign port, shall, at the latest, at the moment of departure, notify the Cyprus Port Authority of the carriage of dangerous or polluting goods, by use of electronic means.

When a ship is required to send a HAZMAT notification, the operator, ship agent or master of the ship must import in CYPOS the Dangerous Goods Manifest. The next port of call, the ETD and the ETA at the next port of call, must also be entered.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that all notifications sent, are monitored by the Department of Merchant Shipping/Cyprus Port Authority in cooperation with the European

Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and immediate corrective measures are taken as deemed necessary.

Operators, agents, masters of a ship, who fail to comply with the notification requirements as stipulated in the above Law, in addition to the sanctions, which may be imposed in accordance with Law 131(I)/2004 (Article 30 & 33), the ship itself shall be considered as posing a potential hazard to shipping or a threat to maritime safety, the safety of individuals or the environment and the Department of Merchant Shipping shall issue an alert (report) for the ship, which will be distributed to all member states in order to take appropriate measures against the ship, in accordance with Annex I-1 of the Council Directive 95/21/EC of 19/06/95 on Port State Control of Shipping.

The Ministry of Communications and Works/Department of Merchant Shipping is the Competent Authority for the implementation and for the monitoring of the exchange of maritime data through the SafeSeaNet and a 7 days a week national focal point has been appointed to provide additional/missing information to other Competent Authorities of EU countries upon request, in case of emergency. To this end, you are kindly requested to provide us with your AOH contact details (name of the person in duty, mob. phone no) to the e-mail address shown below. Your AOH contact details will be used by dedicated personnel of the Department of Merchant Shipping for emergencies only.

E- mail address : ssn@dms.mcw.gov.cy

Your cooperation for the successful and efficient operation of the SafeSeaNet, would be highly appreciated.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

CC: Cyprus Port Authority
Cyprus Cement Public Company Limited