

REPUBLIC



OF CYPRUS

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

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20 Οκτωβρίου 2006

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

Recognised Security Organisations (RSO's):

American Bureau of Shipping  
Bureau Veritas  
China Classification Society  
Det Norske Veritas  
Germanischer Lloyd  
Hellenic Register of Shipping  
Korean Register of Shipping  
Lloyd's Register of Shipping  
Nippon Kaiji Kyokai  
Rusian Maritime Register of Shipping  
RINA

**Subject: Maritime Security – Monitoring the application of Regulation (EC) 725/2005 and ISPS code by Cyprus flag ships**

I wish to inform you that the Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS), has decided to issue supplementary instructions related to maritime security based on the experience gained so far.

The new instructions as well as their implementation date are set out in Appendix 1 . You are urged to proceed expeditiously to ensure full compliance with these requirements in time.

All information and recent developments on maritime security are available on the official web page of the Department of Merchant Shipping ( [www.shipping.gov.cy](http://www.shipping.gov.cy) ) under the title MARITIME SECURITY and you are kindly requested to consult this frequently for updates (recommended to refresh the page) related to the implementation of the provisions of Regulation (EC) 725/2004, Chapter XI-2 of SOLAS 74 as amended and the ISPS Code.

**This Circular must be placed on board ships flying the Cyprus Flag.**

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 and Consular Missions of the Republic  
Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic  
Cyprus Shipping Council  
Cyprus Union of Ship Owners  
Cyprus Bar Association

Encl.  
GMD/

## APPENDIX 1

### INSTRUCTIONS ON MARITIME SECURITY

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The following information and procedures must be readily available and must be followed for maritime security related matters:

#### **1. Changes to Ship Security plans (ISPS Code, Part A, 9.5)**

Changes to ship security plans must be applied only after these have been approved by the Recognised Organisation (RSO) that has approved the Ship Security Plan (SSP) and has issued the ship's International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC).

The following are considered significant cases necessitating changes to the ship security plans, which must be submitted for approval:

- When a ship has undergone a major conversion as defined by SOLAS 74 as amended.
- When any or all of the restricted areas have been changed.
- When new surveillance equipment and related equipment is installed on board for monitoring the security of the ship and these have not been included in the approved SSP.
- When procedures related to the SSP and actions taken when the ship is on security level 1, 2 and 3 are modified.
- Trading of the ship in areas that have not been covered by the ship security assessment.

**All ships must comply with this instruction immediately.**

#### **2. Language of the Ship Security Plans (ISPS Code, Part A, 9.4)**

It is the responsibility of the Management Company to designate the language as follows:

*" the Company should designate a command language and a working language for communications between shipboard personnel and shore based management. To this end if the command and the working languages are other than English, then the SSP's should also be written in English.*

**All SSP's must comply with this instruction the latest by 31 March 2007.**

#### **3. Interface with ships or ports that are not subject to the Requirement of Regulation (EC) 725/2004, Art 3.8**

In every SSP, provisions should be made to ensure that security is not compromised by any ship to port or ship to ship activity, with a port or a ship which are not subject to the provisions of the ISPS Code and Art. 3.8 of Regulation (EC) 725/2004.

**All ships must comply with this instruction immediately.**

#### **4. Conducting Ship Security Exercises (ISPS Code, Part B, 13.7)**

When exercises are conducted - at least once in every calendar year with no more than eighteen (18) months between exercises - the Department of Merchant Shipping must be notified in writing by the Company Security Officer, one (1) week in advance, during normal working hours as per Circular 6/2006. The exercise scenario must be communicated to the Department of Merchant Shipping – Maritime Security Section.

The Company should ensure that, for its entire fleet, at least once every year, a ship to shore exercise is carried out involving one (1) ship (or more ships if so wished). Each year, a different ship (if one ship is chosen to conduct the exercise every year) must be selected when conducting the exercises.

The involvement of the Department of Merchant Shipping will be limited to the testing of efficient communication with the CSO and the successful transmission of a SSAS alert (if this is included in the exercise scenario).

Finally, the CSO should submit a brief evaluation report regarding the conduct of the exercise.

**All ships must comply with this instruction immediately.**