

**GUIDE TO SHIP REGISTRATION
AND RELATED MATTERS**

**Cy MARITIME
CYPRUS**
Shipping Deputy Ministry

Limassol, 2020



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WHY CYPRUS

"A maritime nation committed to a safe, secure and sustainable maritime industry"

- Among the top 20 Ship Registries
- The 3rd largest fleet in the EU
- Among the top Shipmanagement centres worldwide
- A sovereign flag
- Classified in the 'White List' of the Paris and Tokyo MoUs on Port State Control
- USCG QUALSHIP 21 Status
- Party to all international maritime conventions on safety, security, pollution prevention, maritime labour and health and safety
- Comprehensive and favourable Tonnage Tax System, approved by the European Union, available to Owners of Cyprus and foreign ships, Charterers and Shipmanagers
- Web services
- E-verification of certificates including Registration Certificates
- Maritime offices in Piraeus, London, Hamburg, Rotterdam, New York City and Brussels
- Strong involvement in international shipping fora (IMO, ILO) and EU
- Member of the IMO Council since 1987
- More than 25 Bilateral Agreements on Merchant Shipping
- No nationality restrictions for seafarers
- Business friendly common law jurisdiction
- Member of the European Union
- European Union diplomatic protection afforded to Cyprus ships
- Top quality public services to the shipping industry 24/7
- Customer-oriented approach
- Value for money professional services of excellent quality

Economic benefits:

- Favourable tonnage tax scheme approved by the European Union
- No registration fees for Ocean Going Ships
- No mortgage fees for Ocean Going Ships
- Competitive fees and dues
- No tax on income derived from the operation of qualifying ship(s)
- No tax on dividends paid to shareholders out of profits made from the operation or from the sale of qualifying ship(s)
- No tax on interest earned on working capital of a qualifying ship
- No tax on the income, or profit made from the sale of a qualifying ship
- No tax on the salary or other benefits of eligible seafarers, tax residents of Cyprus, employed on board of a qualifying Cyprus ship
- Double tax avoidance agreements with more than 60 States



The registration of ships and the related transactions are effected by the Registrar of Cyprus Ships (the Registrar) who is stationed at the Head Office of the SDM in Limassol. However, the provisional registration of ships and other transactions (other than the permanent and the bareboat charter registration) may be effected abroad by a consular officer of the Republic of Cyprus (consular officer) stationed at any one of the Diplomatic or Consular Missions of the Republic of Cyprus upon instructions issued by the Registrar.

The office addresses, contact details and working hours of the Diplomatic and Consular Missions and of the Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic of Cyprus can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.mfa.gov.cy).

3.1. Ownership Requirements

- (1) Citizens of Cyprus or Corporations established in Cyprus, or
- (2) Citizens of EU/EEA member states or Corporations registered within the EU/EEA and have appointed an authorised representative in Cyprus, or
- (3) Corporations registered outside the EU/EEA but controlled by EU citizens and have appointed an authorised representative in Cyprus.

Whereby "controlled" means:

more than 50% of the shares of the corporations, are owned by EU or EEA citizens, or the majority of the Directors of the corporations, are EU or EEA citizens.

An authorised representative may be a Cypriot citizen or a citizen of any other Member State, who is resident in Cyprus, or a partnership/corporation/branch established in accordance with the laws of Cyprus, which has its place of business in Cyprus.

3.2. Government Policy on the Registration of Ships under the Cyprus flag

The Government Policy on the Registration of Ships under the Cyprus flag states the age limits as well as the additional requirements or conditions for the registration of ships which are deemed necessary for the achievement of safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans and for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of the Cyprus ships and of their owners, bareboat charters, managers and operators.

Further details regarding the Government Policy which is currently in force can be found on the SDM's website under the heading "Registration / Ship Registration".

3.3. Language and submission of supporting documentation

The legislation provides that all documents which refer to Cyprus ships are admissible either at the Registrar or at any one of the Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Cyprus upon relevant instructions, provided that they are drawn up in an official language of the Republic of Cyprus or in a language comprehensible to the competent officers of the SDM.

3.4. Name of a Cyprus ship

No two ships registered under the Cyprus flag may have either the same or closely similar names and the approval of the Registrar is required.

4. Types of registration

There are three types of ship registration in Cyprus: provisional, permanent and bareboat charter registration (parallel).

4.1. Provisional registration

The legislation, allows for the provisional registration of a ship for a period of 6 months (which may be extended). A ship may be provisionally registered either in Limassol by the Registrar or abroad at any Diplomatic or Consular Mission by a consular officer.

At the time of the provisional registration the ship must be at a port or anchorage where it can be surveyed and certified on behalf of Cyprus.

In case the interested party contemplates to complete the provisional registration abroad, the application should indicate the Diplomatic or Consular Mission where this will take place.

The documents required for the provisional registration of a ship can be found on the SDM's website under the heading "Registration/ Ship Registration".

Provided the required documents have been submitted and found to be in order, the Registrar or the consular officer will proceed with the provisional registration of the ship and will issue to the ship the Provisional Certificate of Cyprus Registry which is valid for six months from the date of its issue.

The Registrar will also proceed with the issuance of the following:

- (1) Minimum Safe Manning Document;
- (2) Registration Certificate of Mobile Maritime Radio Station (Radio Licence);
- (3) Certificate(s) of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability, as the case may be;
- (4) Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance – Part I; and
- (5) Continuous Synopsis Record.

4.1.1. Extension of provisional registration

Following approval of the requested extension, the Registrar or a consular officer can issue a certificate associated with the ship's Provisional Certificate of Cyprus Registry attesting a 3 months extension of its validity. Such certificate shall be placed on board the soonest possible and be kept together with the ship's Provisional Certificate of Cyprus Registry.



4.2. Permanent Registration

The permanent registration of a provisionally registered ship must be effected prior to the expiry of the ship's Provisional Certificate of Cyprus Registry.

The presence of the ship at a port or anchorage at the time of its permanent registration is not necessary.

The documents required for the permanent registration of a ship can be found on the SDM's website under the heading "Registration / Ship Registration".

4.2.1. Measurement of the ship's tonnages and Ship's Carving and Marking

All Cyprus ships are required to be surveyed and issued with a Certificate of Survey stating their main particulars and their gross and net tonnages, which are subsequently recorded in the Register.

The Certificate of Survey and the International Tonnage Certificate (1969) or the Cyprus Tonnage Certificate (for vessels with total length less than 24m) may be prepared by the recognized Classification Societies with which the ship is classed or by the SDM.

The original of the Certificate of Survey and a certified copy of the International Tonnage Certificate (1969) or the Cyprus Tonnage Certificate must be submitted to the Registrar for the issue of the Ship's Carving and Marking Note.

Cyprus ships are required to be marked with the name of the ship, its port of registry, its official number and its net tonnage. The correct marking of the ship can be verified and attested by a surveyor of one of the recognized Classification Societies or a surveyor of the SDM.

The duly verified Ship's Carving and Marking Note must be submitted to the Registrar for the permanent registration of the ship.

The official number of Cyprus ships having a gross tonnage of 100 and over is the same as the ship's identification number in accordance with the IMO Assembly resolution A.1117(30) on the IMO ship identification number scheme (i.e. the IMO number) and must be marked as required by SOLAS regulation XI-1/3.

The official number of Cyprus ships having a gross tonnage less than 100 is a six-digit number allotted by the Registrar.

4.3. Bareboat charter registration (Parallel registration)

The legislation provides for the two types of the internationally accepted bareboat charter registration. These are the registration of the bareboat charter of a foreign ship in the Special Book of Parallel Registration (commonly referred to as "Parallel-in registration") and the registration of the bareboat charter of a Cyprus ship in a foreign register (commonly referred to as "Parallel-out registration").

The bareboat registration of foreign and Cyprus ships under the Cyprus regime may be effected with more than 20 States whose legislation is compatible with the Cyprus legislation.

4.3.1. Parallel-in registration

The bareboat charterer must be either a natural person or a legal entity that qualifies for the parallel-in registration of a foreign ship in its name. The qualification requirements are the same as those for the registration of the ownership of a ship in the Register of Cyprus Ships.

The bareboat charterer of the foreign ship must be a legal entity or a natural person who qualifies to own a Cyprus ship and the provisions of the Government Policy for the Registration of Ships under the Cyprus flag apply.

The legislation of the State of registry of the foreign ship must allow its bareboat charter registration. The permission or consent of the authorities of the State where the ownership of the foreign ship is registered is required. In addition, the consent of the mortgagees is also required.

4.3.1.1. Status of a ship during parallel-in registration

The deletion of the ship from the registry of the State where its ownership is registered is not required. However, its right to fly the flag of the State of registry and to have its nationality is suspended and the foreign registry remains operative only with respect to the ownership and encumbrance's status of the ship.

The period of parallel-in registration is usually two years and is renewable. During the period of parallel-in registration, the ship flies the Cyprus flag, has the Cypriot nationality and is subject to the flag State jurisdiction and to the laws of Cyprus. In addition, the port of registry marked on the stern of the ship must be Limassol and not that of the foreign registry.

The documents required for the parallel-in registration of a foreign ship can be found on the SDM's website under the heading "Registration / Ship Registration".





4.3.1.2. Measurement of the ship's tonnages

For the parallel-in registration, the measurement of the tonnage of the ship is not required. The required Certificate of Survey and the International Tonnage Certificate (1969) or the Cyprus Tonnage Certificate, as the case may be, are issued on the basis of the corresponding documents of the foreign registry. The issuance and verification of a Ship's Carving and Marking Note is also not required.

4.3.1.3. Name of the ship

Ships registered parallel-in may keep the name they held under the foreign registry, subject to the approval of the Registrar, as the name must not be the same as the name of a ship already registered in the Register of Cyprus Ships or the Special Book of Parallel Registration.

4.3.1.4. Termination of parallel-in registration

The termination of the status of the parallel-in registration of a foreign ship and its deletion from the Special Book of Parallel Registration is effected when:

- the foreign registry revokes its permission or consent for the parallel-in registration of the ship in Cyprus;
- the bareboat charter of the ship is terminated or the mortgagees revoke their consent;
- the period for which the parallel-in registration of the ship was approved expires; and
- there exists any reason for deletion of the ship from the Special Book of Parallel Registration as in cases of Cyprus ships provisionally or permanently registered in the Register of Cyprus Ships.

Upon termination of the parallel-in registration, the ship shall immediately cease to fly the Cyprus flag, will no longer be entitled to have the Cypriot nationality and shall no longer be subject to the flag State jurisdiction and to the laws of Cyprus. In addition, the ship



5. Other Registry Transactions

5.1. Transfer and transmission of ownership

Any change in the ownership of a Cyprus ship must be recorded in the Register of Cyprus Ships.

5.2. Mortgages-related matters

Once a ship has been registered in the Register, either provisionally or permanently, a mortgage can be created thereby securing a loan or other financial obligations on conditions agreed to by the parties. The creation of a mortgage on a foreign ship which is allowed to fly the Cyprus flag under the registration of a bareboat charter in Cyprus is not allowed.

A mortgage once created must be deposited with the Registrar or with a consular officer following instructions of the Registrar. Whether deposited with the Registrar or with a consular officer, the mortgage is recorded in the Register as from the date and time of its deposit and remains an encumbrance on the ship until discharged by the mortgagees.

If the ownership of the ship on which a mortgage was created is registered in the name of a company which has been incorporated under the laws of Cyprus, the mortgage will also have to be registered with the Registrar of Companies within a maximum period of 42 days after its creation. The mortgagee's security is thus protected in the case of liquidation of the company in question.

5.3. Change of Ship's Name

The change of name of a Cyprus ship maybe effected provided the name is not the same or similar to the name of an existing Cyprus ship.



5.4. Alteration of particulars of a ship

Any change in the tonnage or other particulars of a ship must be recorded in the Register of Cyprus Ships.

5.5. Deletion of the ship

A ship must be deleted from the Register as soon as its ownership is transferred to a person (legal or natural) not qualified to own a Cyprus ship.

A Cyprus ship may also be deleted from the Register on application of the owner of the ship in order for the same to be registered in a foreign registry.

A Closed Transcript of Registry is issued by the Registrar and a Deletion Certificate is issued by a consular officer as soon as the registered mortgages and other encumbrances are discharged and all fees and other pending matters are settled.

6. Fees and Taxes

The Merchant Shipping (Fees and Taxing Provisions) Laws of 2010 and 2020 and the Merchant Shipping (Fees and Dues with respect to Ocean Going Commercial Cyprus Ships) Regulations of 2019 address issues of taxation and set out the payable taxes, fees and charges.

6.1. Registration fees

No fees are imposed for the registration of ships and mortgages for Ocean Going Commercial Ships.

6.2. Cyprus Registry Maintenance Annual Fee

An annual fee of Euro 300,00 is payable on the registration of the ship and annually for subsequent years by the 31st March of each year.

6.3. Fees for the recording, transfer, transmission or discharge of mortgages

No fees are imposed for the recording or transfer of a mortgage in respect of ocean going commercial ships.

6.4. Other fees and charges

No fees are imposed for the initial issue of certificates for ocean going commercial ships.

Fees for ocean going commercial ships:	Euro
Reservation of ship's name per month	10,00
Examination of an application for change of the ship's name	40,00
Approval and change of the ship's name	100,00
Examination of an application for transfer of ownership	40,00
Inspection of Register	20,00

Re-issue of certificates:

Provisional, permanent or parallel certificate of registration	50,00
Ship's carving and marking note	50,00
Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance- Part I	50,00
Tonnage Certificate	50,00
Safe Manning Certificate – Cargo ship	50,00
Safe Manning Certificate – Passenger ship	300,00
Continuous Synopsis Record	50,00
Certificate of Survey	50,00
Passenger Ship Master List	300,00
Civil Liability Convention Certificate	50,00
Bunkers Convention Certificate	50,00
Wreck Removal Convention Certificate	50,00
Passenger Liability Regulation (EC) No. 392/2009 Certificate	50,00
Exemption or Special Arrangement (during working hours)	150,00
Issue of Transcript of Registry	30,00
Issue of initial Radio Station Licence	20,00
Issue of renewal of Radio Station Licence	20,00
Issue of Certificate Of Closed Transcript	50,00

The fees and dues required to be paid for Non-Ocean Going Commercial Ships can be found on the SDM's website under the heading "Fees and Taxes / Ship Registration Fees".

The legislation requires the payment of the prescribed fees and taxes prior to the registration of ships and for the related transactions in the Register of Cyprus Ships or in the Special Book of Parallel Registration.

Fees, taxes, charges or other financial obligations due can be paid, at any time, to any one of the collecting officers, in Cyprus at the SDM or elsewhere and abroad at Diplomatic or Consular Missions.

7. Tonnage Tax

The owner of a qualifying Cyprus ship carrying out a qualifying shipping activity is required to pay tonnage tax annually and is exempted from the payment of income tax under the provisions of the Income Tax Laws in force. The annual tonnage tax is calculated on the basis of ship's net tonnage as follows:

Net tonnage	Euro
For each 100 net tonnage units up to 1.000	36,50
For each additional 100 net tonnage units between 1.001 and 10.000	31,03
For each additional 100 net tonnage units between 10.001 and 25.000	20,08
For each additional 100 net tonnage units between 25.001 and 40.000	12,78
For each additional 100 net tonnage units over 40.000	7,30

The tonnage tax is payable on the registration of the ship and annually for subsequent years by the 31st March of each year.

A qualifying ship is any seagoing ship certificated under the applicable international or national rules and regulations and includes inter alia:

- Cruise ships;
- Commercial yachts;
- Cable and pipe laying ships;
- Ice management vessels;
- Research vessels;
- Off-shore support/servicing vessels;
- Mobile off-shore drilling units (MODUs);

However, certain types of ships, such as the ones mentioned below, are not considered to be qualifying ships:

- Fishing and fish factory vessels;
- Private yachts and vessels used primarily for sport or recreation;
- Inland waterway navigation vessels;
- Fixed offshore installations and floating storage units (not used for maritime transport);
- Non-ocean going tug boats and non-ocean going dredgers;
- Non-propelled barges; and
- Floating Hotels, Restaurants and Casinos.



A qualifying shipping activity is any commercial activity that constitutes maritime transport. The definition of maritime transport includes the traditional carriage of goods and passengers, by sea, outside the territorial sea of the Republic of Cyprus, including, under certain conditions, towage, dredging and cable-laying activities, as well as, ancillary activities to maritime transport (up to 50% of total gross revenues).

An owner of Cyprus ships is eligible for tonnage tax in case the ship is bareboat chartered out to a charterer member of the same group (intra-group transaction). In case of a non intra-group transaction, the owner will only be eligible if the ship was bareboat chartered out due to short-term over-capacity for a period not exceeding 3 years and at least 50% of the tonnage taxed fleet is still operated by the owner.

The tonnage tax payable in relation to a Cyprus qualifying ship carrying out a qualifying shipping activity which is laid up or inoperative for a period of at least 3 consecutive months may be reduced by 75% under certain conditions.

A reduction of up to 30% of the tonnage tax may be possible in the case of a Cyprus ship using mechanisms- equipment for the environmental preservation of the marine environment and the reduction of the effects of climate change.

The owner of a Cyprus ship which is not considered a qualifying ship and the owner of a ship which is not carrying out a qualifying shipping activity is required to pay income tax under the provisions of the Income Tax Laws in force.

The Guide to the Cyprus Tonnage Tax System issued by the SDM as well as the SDM's website under the heading "Fees and Taxes / Tonnage Tax System", provide further details on the Cyprus Tonnage Tax System.

8. Other Related Matters

8.1. Management and operation of a Cyprus ship

The following are only relevant in connection with Cyprus ships that are required to comply with the requirements of SOLAS chapters IX and XI-2 and the ISM and ISPS Codes, as well as, STCW regulation I/14 and the STCW Code.

An Organisation or a person, which assumes the operation of Cyprus ship from its registered owner, (the "company"), is required to comply with the requirements of SOLAS chapters IX and the ISM Code, SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Codes, STCW regulation I/14 and the STCW Code, as well as, the requirements imposed on such companies by the national laws of Cyprus.

The name and the particulars of the company are notified only in relation to the requirements of SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code. The company notified for the purposes of SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code is automatically considered as the one assuming the responsibilities imposed by SOLAS chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Codes, STCW regulation I/14 and the STCW Code and the national laws of Cyprus.

The required Interim Document of Compliance (Interim DoC) and Document of Compliance (DoC) may be issued to such companies by one of the Recognized Organizations (RO) (Classification Societies) or by another SOLAS Contracting Government and must be valid for the type of ship which corresponds to the type of the Cyprus ship in question.

The application for the registration of a ship must be accompanied by the relating information for the ISM and ISPS Codes. This may be done by completing and submitting the relevant ISM/ISPS form, which is available on the SDM's website under the heading "Info Centre / Forms".

In case the company which is assuming the operation of a Cyprus ship does not hold a valid Interim DoC or DoC issued by, at the request of, or on behalf of Cyprus, the SDM will authorise in writing the RO or will request the SOLAS Contracting Government, which has been nominated by the company for the conduct of the required verifications and the issue of such certificates. In addition, the SDM will authorise in writing the RO or will request the SOLAS Contracting Government, which has been nominated by the company for the conduct of the required verifications and the issue to the ship of the Interim Safety Management Certificate (Interim SMC) and subsequently of the Safety Management Certificate (SMC).

The authorisation to the RO for the issue of Interim SMC and SMC may be sent in advance of the registration of a ship and become effective upon its registration.

Based on the standing arrangements between Cyprus and the ROs/RSOs the written authorisation for the conduct of the required verifications and the issue to a Cyprus ship of an Interim International Ship Security Certificate (Interim ISSC) and subsequently of the International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC), is not required.

The current practice allows for the Interim DoC and the DoC to be issued by an RO or another SOLAS Contracting Government and the Interim SMC and the SMC to be issued to a Cyprus ship by the same or another RO or by the same entity. Respectively, the interim ISCC and the ISSC may be issued to a Cyprus ships by the same RO/RSO or by the same entity that has issued the Interim DoC and the DoC or the Interim SMC and the SMC or by another RO/RSO.

Further information on the specific requirements of Cyprus in relation to the requirements of SOLAS chapters IX and XI-2 and of the ISM and ISPS Code are provided on the SDM's website under the heading "Our Services / Safety" and "Our Services / Se



8.2. Minimum Safe Manning Document

The application for the registration of a ship should be accompanied by an application for the issue of a Minimum Safe Manning Document, in case the ship is required by SOLAS chapter V/14 and the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Hours of Work and Watchkeeping) Law of 2000, as amended, to hold such document. This may be done by completing and submitting the relevant form which is available on the SDM's website under the heading "Info Centre / Forms".

8.3. Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability

Ships having a gross tonnage of 300 and over are required to have insurance in place that covers maritime claims subject to limitation under the provisions of the 1976 LLMC Convention and its 1996 Protocol, namely the insurance cover required *under Directive 2009/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the insurance of shipowners for maritime claims and to have on board evidence to this effect.*

Ships having a gross tonnage of 300 and over are required to hold a *Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Liability for the Removal of Wrecks (Wreck Removal).*

Ships having a gross tonnage of 1.000 and over and carrying for use on board bunker oil are required to hold a Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage (Bunkers).

Ships carrying 2.000 metric tonnes and over of oil are required to hold a *Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC).*

Ships carrying passengers and required to comply with the requirements of *Regulation (EC) No 392/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea in the event of accidents are required to hold a Certificate of Insurance or other Financial Security in Respect of Liability for the Death of and Personal Injury to Passengers (PLR).*

The application for the registration of such a ship must, where applicable, be accompanied by an application for the issue of any of the aforesaid certificates. This may be done by using the model application which is available to this end on the SDM's website under the heading "Our Services / Civil Liability Certification".

Civil Liability Certificates issued by the SDM can be verified online on the SDM's website under the heading "Home page / Electronic Services". This is a valuable service since third parties, including port authorities, are able to verify online the existence of Civil Liability Certificates.

8.4. Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance – Part I

Ships having a gross tonnage of 500 and over, which are required to comply with the requirements of the Regulations and part A of the Code forming part of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, are required to be issued with a Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance – Part I (DMLC).

Based on the standing arrangements between Cyprus and the recognized Classification Societies the issue of instructions for the issue to a Cyprus ship of DMLC-Part II, Interim MLC and subsequently MLC is not required.

8.5. Classification Societies (Authorized Organizations)

The classification societies authorized to perform statutory certification and services on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus are ABS, BV, CCS, CRS, DNV GL, KR, IROCLASS, LR, ClassNK, PRS, RINA and RS.

Further guidance on the information and data, which the ship's Classification Society has to provide to the Registrar in relation to the registration of a ship, is provided on the SDM's website under the heading "Our Services / Recognised Organisations".

The statutory certification and services for a ship under Cyprus Flag must be provided by the classification society with which the ship is classed, except for the following instruments, for which statutory certification and services may be performed by a classification society other than the one with which the ship is classed:

- ISM Code;
- ISPS Code;
- MLC 2006 Convention;
- Regulation (EU) No. 1257/2013 (on Ship Recycling); and
- Data Collection System for Fuel Oil Consumption on ships (MARPOL Annex VI).



9.3. Manning and employment of seafarers

In order to facilitate the manning of Cyprus ships, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus has signed a number of bilateral agreements in the field of merchant shipping with labour supplying countries. These provide that the terms of employment of seafarers are those approved by the competent authorities and/or seafarers' unions of the country of the seafarer. Any disputes regarding these are to be resolved exclusively by the competent courts or authorities of either Cyprus or of the country of the seafarer.

Furthermore, Cyprus has developed the "Seafarers Career Information System" (SCIS) - An approved online career database, to be used by seafarers and shipping companies with the aim to facilitate the employment of seafarers.

A list of the countries with which Cyprus has signed such agreements can be found in Appendix 2.

9.4. Certificates of Competency for Officers and Ratings' Certificates

Officers and ratings serving on board Cyprus ships are not required to hold certificates issued by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus provided they hold valid and recognized by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus certificates for the post they hold on board.

Applications for the Cyprus Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book (SISRB) and Cyprus endorsement attesting the recognition (EAR) of non- Cyprus certificates of competency issued by countries whose certificates of competency are recognised by the Republic of Cyprus, must be submitted electronically through the on-line Electronic Seafarer's Application System (e-SAS).

A list of States whose certificates of competency are presently recognised by Cyprus is found in Appendix 1. This list is updated regularly, thus kindly visit the SDM website under the heading "Seafarers / Training And Certification" for the latest list.

9.5. Endorsement attesting the recognition

Officers serving on board Cyprus ships are required to hold, in addition to their non-Cyprus certificate of competency, a Cyprus endorsement attesting the recognition of their certificates in accordance with the 1978 STCW Convention as amended.

9.6. Employment of cadets

Passenger ships, high-speed passenger ships, cargo ships and high-speed cargo ships engaged on international voyages, including short international voyages, are required to engage for sea training cadets who are permanent residents of the Republic of Cyprus, if requested by the SDM.

9.7. Seafarer's Identification and Sea-Service Record Book

All seafarers serving on board Cyprus ships must hold a Seafarer's Identification and Sea Service Record Book, which is issued by the SDM.

9.8. Fees

For the issue of:	Euro
Seafarers Identification and Sea Service Record Book	50,00
Endorsement attesting the recognition	30,00
Issue, renewal and reissue of a certificate of maritime competency	50,00
Issue, renewal and reissue of a certificate of maritime training	50,00

9.9. Taxation of seafarers

No income tax is charged, levied or collected upon the salary or other related benefits from the employment of eligible seafarers, who are tax residents of Cyprus and are employed on board a Cyprus ship, which is a qualifying ship, engaged in maritime transport.

Information in relation to what is a qualifying ship and what is a qualifying shipping activity is provided on the SDM's website under the heading "Fees And Taxes / Tonnage Tax System".

10. International Relations

10.1. Double taxation avoidance agreements

Cyprus has concluded a number of agreements whose main purpose is the avoidance of double taxation of income earned in any of the countries concerned.

The agreements also include provisions relating to "non-discrimination", "mutual agreement procedures" and "exchange of information".

A list of the States with which Cyprus has concluded double tax avoidance agreements is available on the website of the Ministry of Finance (www.mof.gov.cy) under the heading "Double Taxation Agreements".

10.2. Merchant shipping agreements

Cyprus has concluded a number of Bilateral Agreements on Merchant Shipping the aim of which is to promote friendly relations between Cyprus and other countries, explore areas of cooperation related to shipping which could benefit the economic development of both countries and facilitate seaborne trade and employment of seafarers.

Some of the agreements provide that the port fees and charges, which are levied on a ship of the one party calling at a port of the other party, must be those levied on the ships of that party when calling at its port (national treatment).

The States with which Cyprus has signed such agreements are listed in Appendix 2 and are regularly updated on the SDM's website under the heading "Info Centre / Legislation".





APPENDIX 1

**Certificates of Competency
Recognised by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus**

- Algeria
- Argentina
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Belgium
- Brazil
- Bulgaria
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Chile
- China
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Egypt
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Hong Kong
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malaysia
- Malta
- Mexico
- Morocco
- Myanmar
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria*
- Norway
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Montenegro
- Republic of Serbia
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sweden
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Uruguay
- Vietnam

***Countries which are in the process of being assessed
by the European Commission.**



APPENDIX 2

Bilateral Agreements on Merchant Shipping between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and Governments of other States:

- Algeria
- Bulgaria
- China
- Cuba
- Egypt
- Georgia
- India
- Iran
- Israel
- Italy
- Jordan
- Korea
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Philippines
- Poland
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Serbia
- Sri Lanka
- Syria
- Ukraine

Agreements with Antigua & Barbuda, Greece and Pakistan have been signed and will enter into force after completion of the necessary internal procedures of the Contracting Parties.



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