



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
SHIPPING DEPUTY MINISTRY

Circular No. 06/2026

28 February 2026

SDM 05.13.002 & 04.28.005.004.002

To all Registered owners, Registered bareboat charterers
Managers and Representatives of Cyprus ships

Subject: Safety and security of vessels under Cyprus Flag calling or approaching ports/countries where armed/civil conflicts take place

Due to the military escalation involving strikes on Iran, there is an increased likelihood of rapid changes to navigational risk in the area of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Persian/Arabian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Straits of Hormuz, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Therefore, the Shipping Deputy Ministry wishes to advise as follows:

2 The Shipping Deputy Ministry reiterates its recommendation (Circulars No. 20/2015, 33/2021, 25/2023, 15/2025 and 03/2026 are of relevance) to the owners and operators of Cyprus flagged vessels **to avoid any callings and transactions at foreign ports and/or countries where political instability and/ or armed and/or civil conflicts take place** (or are evidently imminent).

3 Furthermore, the Shipping Deputy Ministry, **recommends** that owners, operators, managers and masters of **Cyprus flagged operating in or transiting through said area:**

- (i) maintain increased vigilance and close communication with Port and Flag State authorities and local shipping agents, in accordance with the requirements of the ISPS Code and increase, as necessary, the rigorousness of implementing the security measures aboard in order to protect the vessel and its crew.

Due to the ongoing military escalation, it is recommended that Cyprus flagged vessels operating in the affected area implement security measures equivalent to ISPS Security Level 3, in accordance with their approved Ship Security Plans.

- (ii) carefully assess the security-related situation at each port call or when remaining or navigating through territorial waters, on a case-by-case basis and, as necessary, to implement appropriate security measures aboard in order to protect the vessel and its crew.



- (iii) reassess Strait of Hormuz and other affected area transit and **consider remaining at a safe port/anchorage in neighbouring countries outside the affected area until conditions stabilize.**
- (iv) maintain continuous monitoring of navigational warnings (NAVTEX) in the area and immediately report any security related incident to the Shipping Deputy Ministry.
- (v) communicate with, report to or register with, as appropriate, the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO, Voluntary Reporting Scheme for the Indian Ocean, specifically Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Arabian Sea), the Maritime Security Centre for the Indian Ocean (MSCIO) and the Joint Maritime Information Centre (JMIC) in accordance with industry BMP (Best Management Practices).
- (vi) make frequent checks with local sources of information, e.g. vessel agents, local authorities, Hull and Machinery and Protection and Indemnity insurance providers, in order to obtain the most up-to-date and reliable security-related information available at any given time.
- (vii) review, exercise and, if necessary, implement the relevant contingency plans.
- (viii) contact the vessel's Protection and Indemnity Club/ war insurer well in advance for any voyage in the area.

4 For any security- related concerns please contact the SDM by email at maritime.security@dms.gov.cy or ssas@dms.gov.cy or by telephone at the number: +357 99 377988 (during out of office hours).



Dr. Theodoulos Mesimeris
Acting Permanent Secretary

- Cc:** - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Maritime Offices of the Shipping Deputy Ministry abroad
 - Recognised Organisations
 - Cyprus Bar Association
 - Cyprus Shipping Chamber
 - Cyprus Union of Shipowners
 - Cyprus Shipping Association