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## Circular 2020/006

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# Notifications to Federal Bureau for the Investigation of Maritime Accidents (FEBIMA)

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Date: 01-10-2020

To whom it may concern,

This circular is applicable in the event of maritime accident or incident involving a Belgian ship. This includes all vessels flying the Belgian flag, except those excluded in article 2 of the European [Directive 2009/18/EC of 23 April 2009](#) establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector.

The purpose of this circular is to remind the master, owner, charterer, manager or operator of a ship flying the Belgian flag of the obligation to report immediately to the Federal Bureau for the Investigation of Maritime Accidents (FEBIMA) when their ship is involved in a maritime accident or incident, or any incident entailing an incapacity for work. FEBIMA must also be provided with all relevant information and, if applicable, a copy of reports and of all other relevant documents.

FEBIMA is an independent investigating body created after partial transposition of the above mentioned [Directive 2009/18/EC of 23 April 2009](#) by the law of 2 June 2012 concerning the federal bureau for investigation of maritime accidents and its implementing decrees. The provisions of this law have been incorporated into by the Belgian Shipping Code as from 1 September 2020.

More information on FEBIMA and the maritime accidents that should be reported, can be found: [https://mobiliteit.belgium.be/en/shipping/federal\\_bureau\\_investigation\\_maritime\\_accidents\\_febima](https://mobiliteit.belgium.be/en/shipping/federal_bureau_investigation_maritime_accidents_febima).

FEBIMA is to be contacted:

- Through mail: [accidents@febima.fgov.be](mailto:accidents@febima.fgov.be),
- By phone (24/7): +32 2 277 43 43.

As FEBIMA is an independent investigating body which conducts investigations solely into the cause of maritime accidents, notification to FEBIMA does not relieve the companies and shipowners from the obligation to notify incidents and casualties to the Belgian Maritime Inspectorate without delay and as soon as practically possible. Reference is made to BMI Circular 2008/002 'Notification of incidents to the flagstate'.