



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
SHIPPING DEPUTY MINISTRY

**Circular No: 4/2026**

4 February 2026

SDM File No. 05.13.002, 04.28.003.023

To all Registered Owners, Registered Bareboat Charterers,  
Managers and Representatives of ships flying the Cyprus Flag

To all Recognised Organisations (ROs)

**Subject: Implementation of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships**

I refer to the above subject and wish to advise you as follows:

***Entry into Force for existing Cyprus-flagged Ships***

2 The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC), which has been ratified by the Republic of Cyprus by virtue of Law 21(III)/2025<sup>1</sup>, will enter into force for the Republic of Cyprus on **26 February 2026**, in accordance with Article 17.3 of the HKC.

***Applicability of EU Regulation on ship recycling***

3 Regulation (EU) No. 1257/2013 on ship recycling as amended (“the Regulation”), remains fully applicable. Consequently:

(a) The choice of recycling facility continues to be restricted to those included in the European List of approved ship recycling facilities, as referred to in Article 16 of the Regulation and the relevant implementing acts adopted.

(b) Part I of the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) must be compiled, where applicable, taking into account requirements specific to the Regulation, including substances listed in the Regulation but not in the HKC.

***HKC Certification Requirements***

4 In accordance with Regulation 5.2 of the Annex to the HKC, all existing Cyprus-flagged ships must obtain an International Certificate of Inventory of Hazardous Materials (HKC Certificate):

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<sup>1</sup> The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Law of 2025 (Law 21(III)/2025). (Gazette No. 4314, Supplement I (III), dated 10.10.2025). The text of the Law is obtainable in the Greek language from the following website: [https://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/arith/2025\\_3\\_021.pdf](https://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/arith/2025_3_021.pdf).



- (a) At the first harmonised renewal survey on or after 26 February 2026, but not later than 26 June 2030, or  
(b) Before going for recycling, if earlier.

***Procedure for issuing HKC Certificates based on existing EU Certificates***

5 Pursuant to section 17 of Ratification Law 21(III)/2025 and the relevant Notification issued by the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President<sup>2</sup>, initial HKC Certificates may be issued without survey to Cyprus ships holding a valid Certificate of Inventory of Hazardous Materials (EU Certificate), as required under Article 9 of the Regulation, provided all the following conditions are met:

- (a) The HKC Certificate shall be issued by the same RO that issued the EU Certificate.  
(b) Prior to issuance, the shipowner shall submit to the RO a written declaration, signed by the shipowner or an authorised representative, confirming that:

“There has been no change affecting the validity of the EU Certificate, as defined in Article 10(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No. 1257/2013.”

- (c) Once the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b) are satisfied, the RO shall issue a HKC Certificate, which shall:
- Bear the same expiry date as the EU Certificate; however, this date shall not be later than the date of the first harmonised renewal survey on or after 26 February 2026;
  - Indicate the same date of completion of survey as shown on the EU Certificate; and
  - Be issued in the format shown in the **Annex**.

6 SDM Circular No. 17/2025 is **hereby revoked**.

**This Circular should be kept on board vessels flying the Cyprus Flag.**



**Dr. Theodoulos Mesimeris**  
**Acting Permanent Secretary**

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

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<sup>2</sup> Notification P.I. 41/2026 was issued pursuant to section 17(2) of Law 21(III)/2025 and it is titled “The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (Initial Issue of the International Certificate on Inventory of Hazardous Materials) Notification of 2026”. This Notification was published in the Official Gazette of the Republic No. 5993, Supplement III(I), dated 23.01.2026).