



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY
HELLENIC COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS –
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR SHIPPING
SEAFARERS' LABOUR DIRECTORATE
UNIT 2nd (LABOUR RELATIONS)

Piraeus, 04 August 2023
Prot. Number.: 2242.2 - 3.13/56472/2023

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SUBJECT: "Preventing the use of drugs and alcohol abuse on Greek Flagged ships".

- Ref.: a) Presidential Decree. 79/2012 "Acceptance of amendments to the International Convention on "Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978", which was ratified by Law 1314/1983, as amended and in force (Governmental Gazette A'137).
b) The Code of Public Maritime Law which was ratified with the only article of Legal decree 187/ 1973 "On the Code of Public Maritime Law" (Governmental Gazette A' 261),
c) Law 4139/2013 "Law on Addictive Substances and Other Provisions", as applicable (Governmental Gazette A'74).
d) Presidential Decree. 106/2013 " Implementation of the requirements on the "Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978", (Governmental Gazette A'138).
e) The Prot. Number.: 3636/04/2012/28-11-2012 Circular DEKN 3rd -DNER 2nd "Revised International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers." (STCW/1978) [[online publication number \(ΑΔΑ\): Β4ΣΥΟΠ-ΛΑΨ](#)].
f) The Prot. Number: 2242.1-8/16628/2023: "Decision of the General Director for Shipping of the Hellenic Coast Guard, determining the menu of passenger Ro-Ro ships 250 g.t. and above" (Governmental Gazette B'1636).
g) The Prot. Number: 2242.1-8/16625/2023: "Decision of the General Director for Shipping of the Hellenic Coast Guard, determining the menu of cargo ships of 500 gross tonnage or 800 tons DW and above" (Governmental Gazette B'1736).

1. In the framework of informing the seafarers serving on Greek-flagged ships, in order to prevent the possession and use of drugs or other narcotic addictive substances as well as in order to be aware about the prohibition of exceeding the permitted limits of alcohol consumption on board, in compliance with the provisions of par. 2 of Regulation VIII/1 of the STCW Convention (Manilla Amendments), are retained the following:

- a) The use of drugs and the consumption of alcohol beyond the permitted limits on board directly affects the suitability and capability of the seafarers to perform their duties with a direct impact on both their personal safety as well as the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment.
b) In addition to the individual responsibility of the seafarers themselves, shipowners - in the framework of maintaining safety in the workplace of seafarers (safety culture) - must ensure the adoption and implementation of appropriate policies in order to prevent the use of drugs and alcohol abuse on board their ships, including the horizontal ban on the consumption of alcohol for a period of four (04) hours before, as well as during watchkeeping.

To this end, companies may consider either implementing a system of providing adequate and continuous information and training to seafarers, or including it in the company's Safety Management System.

c) In reference to the aforementioned, it is mentioned that the International Labour Organization (ILO) has issued relevant directives titled: *“Drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs in the maritime industry” (A Manual for planners)*, aiming to assist the establishment of prevention programs.

2. It is specified that the provisions existing in the Greek legislative framework provide for a total ban of the possession and use of drugs or other narcotic addictive substances while establishing specific limits for the consumption of alcohol. Particularly:

a) According to the provisions of Art.7 par. 1, 2 of p.d. 106/2013 (A'138) *“Implementation of requirements for the training and watchkeeping of seafarers.”*, Watchkeeping by a master, officer or other crew member during the performance of specified safety duties, including special duties to be performed in the event of an emergency, security from illegal activities and those related to the marine environment, is prohibited when under the influence of alcohol, in particular when the percentage of alcohol in the blood is more than 0.05% (BAC) or when the concentration of alcohol in the exhaled air is more than 0.25 milligrams per litre (mg / l). According to the above provisions, there is an explicit prohibition of the use of alcohol during on-board service and the limits are set that one is considered to be under the influence of alcohol.

Additionally, the ship owner is enabled to apply stricter limits, which should be well documented and the seafarers are duly informed at the time signing their employment agreement. It is emphasized that the consumption of alcohol is prohibited for seafarers under the age of 18.

b) With regard to the possession and use of drugs or other narcotic substances, according to article 20 of the law 4139/2013 (A'74) (reference d) of the relevant special criminal law, are provided penalties of imprisonment of at least eight (8) years and a fine of up to three hundred thousand euros (300,000€). Furthermore, the possession and use of drugs by seafarers is punished by the competent Penal Courts as a special criminal offense but also disciplinary by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy through the Merchant Marine Disciplinary Councils for violation of the provisions of Article 232 "Illegal importation of drugs" and Article 233 "Drunk on duty" of Chapter B" SPECIFIC MARITIME CRIMES" of the Fifth Part of the Code of Public Maritime Law. It is clarified that all violations of national legislation and in particular of the Penal Code are also applicable to foreign seafarers who work on Greek-flagged ships in accordance with Article 5 of the Penal Code concerning the local limits of the criminal laws and especially Greek registered seafarers are subject to disciplinary control.

3. Therefore, Shipowners' Associations are requested to inform their members about the aforementioned.

4. A copy of this document should be available on board in the assembly accommodation, living room for recreation of the crew, on Greek flagged ships, both in Greek and in the working language of the ship.

The Director

Captain H.C.G. Antonios DOUMANIS

POSTAL BOARD

I. ADDRESSEES FOR ACTION

- 1. Union of Greek Shipowners**
E-mail: ugs@ugs.gr
- 2. Association of Passenger Shipping Shipowners**
E-mail: seen@seen.org.gr
- 3. Inland Ferry Association**
E-mail: info@enosiporthmion.gr
- 4. Hellenic Professional Yacht Owners Association**
E-mail: info@epest.gr
- 5. Union of Cruise Ship Owners and associated Members**
E-mail: info@cruise-union.com
- 6. Panhellenic Union of Professional Day Yacht Owners**
E-mail: penetis2001@yahoo.gr
- 7. Hellenic Shortsea Shipowners Association**
E-mail: info@shortsea.gr
- 8. . Panhellenic Association of Coastal Ferries Shipowners up to 500 g.t.**
E-mail: gorgo@otenet.gr
- 9. Panhellenic Union of Officers and Crews of Professional-Private Yachts (HYCA)**
E-mail: info@hyca.gr
- 10. Hellenic Shipowners' Association of Tugs, Salvage, Antipollution & OSVs**
E-mail: info@greektugowners.gr
- 11. Panhellenic Tugowners Association «Aghios Nikolaos»**
E-mail: panenosirim@gmail.com

II. ADDRESSEES FOR NOTIFICATION

- 1. Hellenic Chamber of Shipping**
E-mail: nee@nee.gr; hcs@nee.gr
- 2. Panhellenic Seamen's Federation**
E-mail: gram@pno.gr
- 3. ITF representative in Greece**
E-mail: kourakos_stamatis@itf.org.uk
- 4. Hellenic Coast Guard Authorities**
- 5. Hellenic Maritime Attaché's Offices**

II. INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- 1. Offices of Minister (fYi) – Deputy Minister (fYi)**
- 2. Office of Secretary General for Shipping and Ports. (fYi)**
- 3. Office of the Hellenic Coast Guard Commandant (fYI)**
- 4. Offices of 1st Deputy Commandant (fYi) – 2nd Deputy Commandant. (fYi)**
- 5. Offices of the General Director for Shipping ' (fYi) – the General director for Ship's Control (fYi)**
- 6. Hellenic Coast Guard Regional Commands. (fYi)**
- 7. Directorate for Ship' s Control –Safety of Navigation Directorate - Verification of Safety and Security Management of ships and Port Facilities Directorate - IMSAS Coordinator - Security and Sea Borders Protection Directorate - Drugs & Contraband Enforcement Directorate- N.T.D. – P.P.D.**