

## Shipping & Transport - Cyprus

### Adoption of new international codes on marine accident investigation

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The Cyprus Department of Merchant Shipping has announced changes to the legislative framework for investigating marine accidents. The International Codes on Marine Accident Investigation Decision of 2010, issued under Section 4 of the Convention on the International Maritime Organisation (Ratification) and for Matters Connected Therewith Laws 1973 to 1996, approves two codes adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). The first is the Code for the Investigation of Marine Casualties and Incidents adopted on November 27 1997 by IMO Assembly Resolution A.849(20), as amended on November 25 1999 by Resolution A.884(21). The second is the Code of the International Standards and Recommended Practices for a Safety Investigation into a Marine Casualty or Marine Incident (Casualty Investigation Code) adopted on May 16 2008 by the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO, Resolution MSC.255(84), in force internationally since January 1 2010.

The circular issued by the Department of Merchant Shipping outlining the changes also informs ship owners and operators that SOLAS Chapter XI 1 has been amended to make the Casualty Investigation Code mandatory, and draws attention to the following provisions of the Casualty Investigation Code:

- Masters are obliged to notify substantially interested states of accidents occurring on the high seas or in an exclusive economic zone without delay;
- Investigators are empowered to board ships, interview persons involved and acquire evidential material for the purpose of their investigation; and
- Reports into accidents will be published.

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