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4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT  
LONDON SE1 7SR  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4284  
29 April 2020

To: All IMO Members  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from Greece**

The Government of Greece has sent the attached information with the request that it is circulated by the Organization.

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ANNEX



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS AND INSULAR POLICY  
HELLENIC COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
DIRECTORATE OF SECURITY AND SEA BORDERS PROTECTION

CIRCULAR

**SUBJECT: "INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC REGARDING AMENDMENTS OF LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS ON BOARD SHIPS"**

1. The Hellenic Maritime Administration wishes to inform the shipping community of the following amendments of the relevant national legislative framework as regards the acquisition and possession of weapons on board ships which has been put into effect on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2020.

2. In particular according to the provisions of Law 4678/2020<sup>1</sup> **the categories of weapons/firearms for which a transit permit is required are expanded** in order to include all types of weapons/firearms and other objects as defined in the attached annex.

3. Additionally, the scope of certain cases where a **transit declaration was required, is now expanded to include** apart from ships of any flag carrying these items that call at a Greek port or anchorage without being unloaded or uploaded and brought in the Greek territory, **also ships of any flag sailing in the Greek territorial waters even without calling a Greek port or anchorage**. In the latter case, when a ship enters a sea area under the jurisdiction of the Hellenic Republic, the declaration of transit must be submitted by the master by any means available (fax/e-mail) to the local Hellenic Coast Guard Authority. The declaration of transit must include the required information specified in the attached transit declaration form, in Greek and/or English. E-mail addresses of the local Hellenic Coast Guard's

<sup>1</sup> "Amendment of provisions of Law 2168/1993 (A' 147) "Regulation of matters relating to weapons, ammunition, explosives, explosive devices and other provisions", harmonization of Greek legislation with Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Directive 91/477/Council EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and the necessary additional measures for the implementation of European Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403." (G.G A' 70)



Authorities are attached thereto. Finally, their contact information is also available online at the HCG's web site (<http://www.hcg.gr/limArxes>).

4. Furthermore, in cases of ships carrying dangerous goods/cargoes<sup>2</sup> which may cause serious dangers to public order and security of the country, **the masters are required to inform** additionally the Directorate of Security and Sea Borders Protection by submitting a written notification<sup>3</sup>, at least twelve (12) hours before entering the sea areas under the jurisdiction of the Hellenic Republic. The notification shall include the same information as the declaration of transit. The Hellenic Coast Guard reserves the right to direct the master to follow a specific route or to object to the passage of the ship if this passage is not considered as "innocent passage", according to UNCLOS 1982.

5. Finally, the new legislation prohibits passengers travelling onboard cruise ships or on ships performing international voyages under foreign flag, to carry out recreational target shooting while the ship transits sea areas under the jurisdiction of the Hellenic Republic.

6. Penal, civil, administrative and disciplinary penalties, where appropriate, are imposed for failure to comply with the relevant legislation<sup>4</sup>.

The Director General

Commodore H.C.G. Karageorgos Georgios

Ψηφιακά υπογεγραμμένο από MARIANNA KALOGIROU  
Ημερομηνία: 2020.04.28 13:48:44 EEST  
Αιτία: ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ  
Τόπος: ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ

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<sup>2</sup> Indicatively high-risk explosives, nuclear, biochemical and radioactive materials, as well as the transport of goods, the combination of which can pose serious threats to the country or the marine environment as included

<sup>3</sup> via fax (+302131371244) or e-mail ([dapthas@hcg.gr](mailto:dapthas@hcg.gr))

<sup>4</sup> Indicatively imprisonment of at least one (01) year and a fine up to € 29,347.00



Δήλωση διαμετακόμισης [άρθρο 4 παρ. 6 ν. 2168/1993 (Α' 147), όπως αντικαταστάθηκε με το άρθρο 3 παρ. 3 ν. 4678/2020 (Α' 70) και ισχύει]  
*Transit declaration [article 4 par. 6 of Law 2168/1993 (A' 147), as it was replaced by article 3 par. 3 of Law 4678/2020 (A' 70) and is in effect]*

<p><b>Στοιχεία πλοίου</b> <b>Ship's information</b></p> <p>Όνομα πλοίου: <i>Name of vessel:</i></p> <p>IMO No:</p> <p>Σημαία: <i>Flag:</i></p> <p>Λιμένας και αριθμός νηολογίου: <i>Port and number of registry:</i></p> <p>Χωρητικότητα: <i>Tonnage:</i></p> <p>Πλοιοκτήτρια εταιρεία: <i>Ship-owning company:</i></p> <p>Διαχειρίστρια εταιρεία: <i>Operating company:</i></p>
<p><b>Στοιχεία πλοιάρχου</b> <b>Captain's information</b></p> <p>Όνοματεπώνυμο πλοιάρχου: <i>Name and surname:</i></p> <p>ΜΕΘ: <i>Seaman's Book number:</i></p> <p>Τηλέφωνο: <i>Telephone no:</i></p> <p>e-mail:</p>
<p><b>Στοιχεία φορτίου</b> <b>Cargo information</b></p> <p>Στοιχεία ναυλωτή<sup>1</sup>: <i>Charterer's information:</i></p> <p>Στοιχεία φορτωτή<sup>1</sup>: <i>Shipper's information:</i></p> <p>Στοιχεία παραλήπτη<sup>1</sup>: <i>Consignee's information:</i></p> <p>Λιμένας ή τόπος προέλευσης φορτίου: <i>Port or place of cargo's origin:</i></p> <p>Λιμένας ή τόπος προορισμού φορτίου: <i>Port or place of cargo's destination:</i></p> <p>Λιμένες προσέγγισης του πλοίου: <i>Ship's ports of call for the specific voyage:</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> **Φυσικό πρόσωπο:** επώνυμο, όνομα, ημερομηνία και τόπος γέννησης, διεύθυνση κατοικίας, αριθμός ταυτότητας ή διαβατηρίου, ημερομηνία έκδοσης και εκδούσα Αρχή

**Person:** surname, name, date and place of birth, residence address, I.D. or passport number, date and Authority of issuance

**Νομικό πρόσωπο:** ονομασία ή εμπορική επωνυμία και έδρα, επώνυμο, όνομα, ημερομηνία και τόπος γέννησης, διεύθυνση κατοικίας, αριθμός ταυτότητας ή διαβατηρίου νόμιμου εκπροσώπου αυτού

**Legal entity:** business or trade name and registered office, surname, name, date and place of birth, residence address, I.D. or passport number of its legal representative

Ημερομηνία και ώρα κατάπλου ή αρχικής εισόδου  
στα Ελληνικά χωρικά ύδατα<sup>2</sup>:

*Date and time of arrival at the port of call or of initial  
entry in Greek territorial waters:*

*(διαγράφεται ανάλογα)*

Ημερομηνία και ώρα απόπλου ή ημερομηνία τελικής  
εξόδου από τα Ελληνικά χωρικά ύδατα<sup>2</sup>:

*Date and time of departure from the port of call or of  
final exit from Greek territorial waters:*

*(διαγράφεται ανάλογα)*

**Περιγραφή του υπό διαμετακόμιση είδους**

***Description of goods in transit***

Είδος:

*Product:*

Ποσότητα:

*Quantity:*

Κατηγορία:

*Category:*

Κλάση (κατά τους ισχύοντες διεθνείς κανονισμούς):

*Class (according to international regulations):*

Λοιπά χαρακτηριστικά:

*Other characteristics:*

Αριθμός αναγνώρισης:

*Identification number:*

Ο Πλοίαρχος  
*The Captain*

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<sup>2</sup> Ημερομηνία και ώρα κατάπλου και απόπλου σε ελληνικό/ούς λιμένα/ες για τις δηλώσεις διαμετακόμισης του άρθρου 4 παρ. 6 περ. α'

*Date and time of arrival at and from the Greek port(s) of call concerning the transit declarations of article 4 par. 6 indent a'.*

Ημερομηνία και ώρα αρχικής εισόδου σε και τελικής εξόδου από Ελληνικά χωρικά ύδατα για τις δηλώσεις διαμετακόμισης του άρθρου 4 παρ. 6 περ. β'

*Date and time of initial entry in and final exit from the Greek territorial waters concerning the transit declarations of article 4 par. 6 indent b'.*

In English: Product type, main word first Optional: in any other EU language(s): Product type, main word first	In English: name of legislative act, reference number, date, title Optional: name of legislative act, reference number, date, title	Direct link to rule	In English: scope	In English: main requirements that the business user needs to know about
firearm firearm, component firearm, essential component firearm, accessory ammunition explosives  explosive device	Law 4678/2020 "Amendment of provisions of law 2168/1993 (A' 147) "Regulation of matters relating to weapons, ammunition, explosives, explosive devices and other provisions", harmonization of Greek legislation with Directive (EU) 2017/853 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 amending Directive 91/477 / Council EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons and the necessary additional measures for the implementation of European Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403." (Government Gazette A' 70/20-03-2020)	<a href="http://www.et.gr/idoocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wHUdWr4xouZundtvSoClrL8_NSNYUWRI5HTlI9LGdkF53Ulx942CdyqxsQYNUqAGCF0fB9Hl6qSYtMQEkEHLwnFqmgJSA5WlsluV-nRwO1oKqSe4BIOTSpEWYhszF8P8UqWb_zFijA-YcSZ0gAMHkTKUC_pN5QMgDUh9s5_JpfICkYSUg9e">http://www.et.gr/idoocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wHUdWr4xouZundtvSoClrL8_NSNYUWRI5HTlI9LGdkF53Ulx942CdyqxsQYNUqAGCF0fB9Hl6qSYtMQEkEHLwnFqmgJSA5WlsluV-nRwO1oKqSe4BIOTSpEWYhszF8P8UqWb_zFijA-YcSZ0gAMHkTKUC_pN5QMgDUh9s5_JpfICkYSUg9e</a>	(1) Article 4 par. 2 of law 2168/1993 (A' 147) as it was replaced by article 3 par. 2 of law 4678/2020 (A' 70) and is in effect (2) No 3009/2/21-g' Joint Ministerial Decision (B' 301)	Issuance of a transit by sea permit in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in Article 6 of the JMD and the supporting documents set out in Article 3 of the JMD
weapons, salute and acoustic weapons, hunting weapons, target shooting firearm, deactivated shooting simulators weapons, special or devices that launch special type cracks or blanks and all kinds of ammunition for these weapons used by airport management and operating Services exclusively to intimidate, ward off and control birds in airports weapons disguised as other objects	Joint Ministerial Decision No 3009/2/21-g' "Terms, conditions and procedure for issuing a transit permit for weapons, ammunition, explosives and other objects, as well as its safe implementation" (Government Gazette B' 301/21-04-1994)	<a href="http://www.et.gr/idoocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG2V0oPmnoFKHdtvSoClrL8g3By2FX_IVR5MXD0LzQTLf7MGgcO23N88knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWyJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LldQ163nV9K--td6S1ub8F-KR3glcNnzRRdl1aYOinK0eA4yO7J93Ks7D-bT9b">http://www.et.gr/idoocs-nph/search/pdfViewerForm.html?args=5C7QrtC22wG2V0oPmnoFKHdtvSoClrL8g3By2FX_IVR5MXD0LzQTLf7MGgcO23N88knBzLCmTXKaO6fpVZ6Lx3UnKl3nP8NxdnJ5r9cmWyJWelDvWS_18kAEhATUkJb0x1LldQ163nV9K--td6S1ub8F-KR3glcNnzRRdl1aYOinK0eA4yO7J93Ks7D-bT9b</a>	(1) Article 4 par. 6 of law 2168/1993 (A' 147) as it was replaced by article 3 par. 3 of law 4678/2020 (A' 70) and is in effect (2) No 3009/2/21-g' Joint Ministerial Decision (B' 301)	Declaration of transit to the competent local H.C.G. and Customs Authorities by the master for ships flying any flag, which either sail to Greek ports for any reason without the specific items being unloaded from the ship or sailing Greek territorial waters. In the latter case, the competent H.C.G. Authority is considered to be the H.C.G. Authority in whose jurisdiction the vessel entered Greek territorial waters. The declaration shall contain the elements set out in article 3 par. 2 of the JMD.