

**Circular 31 / 2012**

**To: Vessel Managers, Masters of vessels operating in the European Economic Area, Deputy Registrars, Surveyors and Other Interested Parties**

**Subject: EU Directive Requiring Ship Owners of Seagoing Vessels over 300GT to Maintain Liability Insurance.**

**Date: 22 February 2012**

**Summary:**

The Directive 2009/20/EC applies to vessels of more than 300 GT, but does not apply to warships, auxiliary warships or other State owned operated ships used for non-commercial public service.

The Directive requires EU States to require ships entering their ports, to have in place third party insurance to cover their liabilities for maritime claims. The Directive further requires the insurance to be to the levels set out in the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims 1976 as amended by the 1996 Protocol.

For Ship Owners that have in place current standard P&I cover, no additional insurance will be required.

The Directive establishes that evidence of insurance shall be in the form of a certificate, issued by the insurer, and contain the following information:

- a) Name of ship, IMO number and port of registry
- b) Ship Owners name and principal place of business
- c) Type and duration of the insurance
- d) Name and principal place of business of the provider of the insurance and, where appropriate, the place of business where the insurance is established.

For further information, please consult the [EUR-Lex](#) legislation database or at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm> or [here](#). Alternatively, it may be preferable to contact EU ports where entry is intended.

Please ensure this has been forwarded to interested parties.