

SHIPPING & TRANSPORT

Malta

Court announces additional advantages for mortgagees of Maltese vessels

Legal history was made recently when a Maltese civil court granted an application requesting approval of a private sale. Court-approved private sales are intended to address the respective disadvantages of private sales and judicial sales by auction. Notwithstanding that this remedy

has been on the statute book since 2006, this case represented its first test.

Author: Ann Fenech

(Read article <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/?i=55592&l=7G390CD>)

Norway

Amendments to the Maritime Code: casualty investigations

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has proposed amendments to the Maritime Code regarding casualty investigations. Changes include an increased investigative duty for the Accident Investigation Board, a duty to secure evidence after an accident for anyone involved and a 12-month time limit for issuing casualty reports.

Authors: Ena Aarseth Barder, Nina MH Hanevold, Morten Lund Mathisen, Gaute K Gjelsten

(Read article <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/?i=55592&l=7G390D0>)

Cyprus

European directive on maritime insurance: harmonisation measures

The Department of Merchant Shipping has issued a circular to owners and operators of Cyprus-registered ships reminding them that EU Directive 2009/20/EC requires owners of all types of ship of 300 gross tonnes or above to have insurance cover against maritime claims. The directive applies to ships flying the flag of an EU or European Economic Area member state.

Author: Costas Stamatiou

(Read article <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/?i=55592&l=7G2KZD9>)

Russia

New law to boost shipbuilding and support national merchant fleet

At the start of the 1990s the Soviet Union boasted one of the largest fleets in the world, but over the past 20 years Russia has lost a significant share of the market. A new law will encourage the registration of ships under the Russian flag and support the country's shipyards. It also signals significant opportunities for international shipping businesses and financial institutions.

Author: Alexander V Mednikov

(Read article <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/?i=55592&l=7G2KZDW>)

China

Sea waybill or bill of lading?

Bills of lading and sea waybills differ in their nature and function, and also in the obligations imposed on the carrier. In a dispute arising from the transportation of goods from China to the United States, the Shanghai Maritime Court considered the classification of documents as bills of lading or sea waybills, as well as the effect of a standard term on the back of a bill of lading that stipulated the application of US law.

Author: Jin Yu-Lai

(Read article <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/?i=55592&l=7G13YA0>)

Sweden

Nordic freight forwarding conditions to be modernised

In Sweden, freight forwarders are subject to no special mandatory regulations and, in principle, the parties involved are free to agree whatever terms they wish, provided that they do not contravene the law. Despite this, few freight forwarding agreements are made between parties; rather, the General Conditions of the Nordic Association of Freight Forwarders are widely used within the Nordic countries. This update considers the impact of the ongoing review of these conditions.

Author: Sören Thorlin

(Read article <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/?i=55592&l=7G13YAZ>)

Cyprus

New merchant shipping law regulates classification powers

The new Merchant Shipping (Recognition and Authorisation of Organisations) Law transposes into Cyprus law the EU Directive on Common Rules and Standards for Ship Inspection and Survey Organisations and for the Relevant Activities of Maritime Administrations. An order issued under Section 2 of the new law lists the relevant international conventions for the purpose of the law.

Author: Costas Stamatiou

(Read article <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/?i=55592&l=7G1X4NJ>)