



**THE MANAGEMENT AND CONDUCT OF HYDROGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES AND  
PRODUCTION OF NAUTICAL CHARTS LAW, 2014**

*(English translation)*

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The publication at hand by the Office of the Law Commissioner is an English translation of the Management and Conduct of Hydrographic Activities and Production of Nautical Charts Law of 2014.(L. 96(I)/2014) (Official Gazette, Supplement 1(I): 11.7.2014, No. 4452).

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Number 96(I) of 2014

A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONDUCT OF  
HYDROGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION OF NAUTICAL CHARTS

The House of Representatives enacts as follows:

Short title.           1. This Law may be cited as the Management and Conduct of Hydrographic Activities and Production of Nautical Charts Law of 2014.

Interpretation.       2. In this Law, unless the context otherwise provides-  
“Block” means the auxiliary chart that depicts details of a specific area and it is added to a published chart;  
“coastal zone” means the geomorphologic area on both sides of the coastline, within which the interaction between the sea part and land part takes the form of complex systems of ecological elements and resources, consisted of biotic and abiotic components, which coexist and interact with human communities and with their relevant socio-economic activities;  
“Convention” means the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, which was ratified by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Ratification) Law, 1988;  
“Department” means the Department of Lands and Surveys.

“Director” means the Director of Lands and Surveys Department;

“nautical aid” means apparatus, chart, method, book, document and anything else which can be used as an aid to navigate a sea vessel, thus defining the vessels position and course;

“nautical chart” means a special-purpose map, designed to meet the requirements of marine navigation, which depicts depths, natural state of the seabed, reefs, form and characteristics of coast, navigational hazards and navigational aids;

“nautical publication” means the maritime information included in documents or books, which describe the characteristics of coasts, depths, seaports, straits, seaport accommodations and nautical aids and which is available for use to mariners;

“Republic” means the Republic of Cyprus;

Scope of this Law.

**3.** By the provisions of this Law, matters relating to the structure and the functions of the Department as the competent body for the management and conducting of hydrographic activities, compiling and production of nautical charts and the study of the marine environment of the Republic, which are related to the development of hydrography and nautical cartography, are hereby regulated.

Functions of the Department.

**4.** The Department has a duty to process and evaluate

information and data of hydrography and nautical cartography for the purpose of:

- (a) contributing to the safety of mariners;
- (b) implementing, exploiting, promoting and developing sciences related to marine cartography; and
- (c) assisting and supporting the work of public and wider public sector, legal and natural entities and private sectors which fall within the competence of the Department.

Competences  
of the  
Department.

**5.** -(1) The Department has exclusive jurisdiction to certify and issue official nautical charts of the Republic, blocks, nautical publications, navigational aids, in written or electronic form, analog or digital, in the manner most suitable for the purpose of aiding safety of navigation.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), the Department undertakes the following:

- (a) to conduct hydrographic, oceanographic and cartographic surveys and studies, as well as implement research programs, collect data and information, required for the support and cover the related needs of the Republic.
- (b) to study, prepare, issue and release special nautical charts and other nautical publications and aids, in written or in electronic form, to satisfy the needs of

- mariners and the Republic;
- (c) the cartographic interpretation and implementation of the provisions of the Convention;
  - (d) to provide expertise to competent bodies, when declaring zones and preparing proposals for entering into agreements with other States, according to the provisions of the Convention;
  - (e) to install, operate and monitor stations which measure parameters of various physical phenomena, such as the variation of sea level;
  - (f) to provide assistance in issuing expert opinion relating to activities on the coastal zone and the installation or construction of ports or other structures on this zone or in the sea;
  - (g) to release its products and provide its services upon the payment of a fee which is prescribed as the case maybe;
  - (h) to watch and promote sciences and practices related to its purpose, in cooperation, where needed, with educational foundations, scientific researchers and bodies and research centers;
  - (i) to represent the Republic, together with other competent services, as deemed necessary -
    - (i) in the International Hydrographic Organization,
    - (ii) in international organizations, for matters

which relate to its mission, and

(iii) in any or before any other organization or body in the Republic or abroad;

**(j)** any other function related to the mission of the Department.

Geographical area.

**6.** The geographical area, within which the Department operates, is the coastal and sea zones of the Republic, where under the national and international Law, the Republic has rights and/or jurisdiction.

Appointment.

**7.** - (1) The Director, or duly authorized officer designated by him, is appointed as the Hydrographer of the Republic.

(2) The Department shall consist of staff, which contributes to fulfill the responsibilities and functions of the Department, distinguished in scientific and technical, specialized in hydrographic, geodetic, topographic and cartographic matters.

Collaboration and information to third parties.

**8.** -(1) All public and private bodies, legal and natural entities which are involved in the construction of works in the sea, on the coastal zone or the seabed, such as port works, sea cultivations, underwater pipelines, cables, mooring buoys, floating peers, platforms, artificial reefs, shall inform in advance the Department accordingly , which then, informs mariners and depicts the works on the nautical charts.

(2) Any person who is interested in conducting hydrographic or nautical cartographic surveys or researches and studies related to these sciences, within the geographical area of activities of the Department, undertake to inform the Department in time, of the works, science researches and studies in question, for consultation on the management and compatibility of the data collected.

(3) The bodies referred to in section(1), after carrying out their works and researches, shall submit to the Department copies of the data and information collected, in order to be to utilized in compiling and issuing nautical charts and nautical publications, subject to the provisions of the Copyright and Related Rights Law, as for the time being amended or substituted.

59(l) of 1976  
63 of 1977  
18(l) of 1993  
54(l) of 1999  
12(l) of 2001  
128(l)of 2002  
128(l) of 2004  
123(l)of 2006  
181(l) of 2007  
207(l)of 2012.

(4) The responsibility for the accuracy and credibility of the data, of any kind of surveys of third parties, rests with the contractor of the program, engineer or scientist, which is certified for such kind of surveys.

(5) The Department, where deems necessary, cooperates with bodies in the Republic, or abroad, within the framework of joint scientific researches, programmes, works and studies of its competence and exchanges relevant publications, articles, editions and studies, with the corresponding foreign services

and bodies.

Administrative  
fine.

**9.** -(1) Where the Director ascertains a violation of the provisions of section 8, he/she may impose an administrative fine, not exceeding ten thousands euros(10000€).

(2) On imposing the fine referred to in subsection (1), the Director shall take into consideration the nature, the ogravity and any repetitive character of the contravention.

(3) The fine provided for in subsection (1), shall be imposed with a reasoned decision of the Director, confirming the contravention, after having the interested person or his representative heard, or given the opportunity to be heard, orally or in writing.

(4) There shall be permitted to be filed a hierarchical recourse before the Minister of Interior against the decision for the imposition of a fine within a period of thirty (30) days from the communication of the decision to the offender.

(5) The amount of the fine shall be collected by the Department when the period of seventy five (75) days for filing a recourse to the Supreme Court against such decision has elapsed or, in the case a hierarchical recourse is filed before the Minister of Interior in accordance with subsection (4), from the communication of the decision of the Minister on the hierarchical recourse.

(6) In case of an omission to pay the fine imposed by the Director in accordance with this Law, the amount due shall

be collected as a civil debt due to the Republic.

Copyright.

**10.**-(1) The copyright of the nautical charts, diagrams, nautical aids and the rest of publications issued by the Department in analogue or in electronic form, belongs to the Department.

(2)(a) The reproduction in any form, of the whole or of a part, of the abovementioned products of the Department, is prohibited without its prior consent and payment of a fee, which is prescribed in each case, by the provisions in force for the time being.

(b) In particular, the production and distribution by any other public or private body, of nautical charts, specialized nautical charts, maritime instructions, navigating and nautical maps, and indexes and other publications and products of the Department, without its written authorization, is prohibited.

(3) The copyright of the raw and processed oceanographic and hydrographic data of the Department, in written or in electronic form, analogue or digital, which are available to the public services or private bodies for a specific purpose, in limited and controlled number, belongs to the Department and their use for any other purpose or distribution to third parties in whole or in part thereof, without prior approval of the Department, is prohibited.

(4) The provisions of the Copyright and Related Rights Law, as from time to time amended or substituted, shall apply to any

person who contravenes the provisions of this Law.

Regulations.

**11.** The Council of Ministers may make regulations for the better carrying into effect of the provisions of this Law.