

## PORT CIRCULAR 1 OF 2024

**TO: ALL SHIP AGENTS**

**FROM: John Ghio, CEO and Captain of the Port**

**DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

**RE: New SAR Information Requirements on all Cruise Call Bookings**

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Dear All

To further improve Gibraltar's compliance with SOLAS regulations the Gibraltar Port Authority has enhanced its Vessel Management System (VMS) to include and record various Search & Rescue (SAR) plans between us and visiting cruise liners calling to Gibraltar.

This new section will be noticeable in a few additional items of information required when booking a cruise call via the VMS Portal.

The new process consists of a few simple additional steps.

- **GPA's SAR information to be submitted to the visiting vessel:**

Prior to booking a cruise call agents will be required to submit our SAR information to the cruise liners and will need to confirm that this information has been passed on accordingly. This information can be downloaded from the attached file present during the cruise liner booking tab. Please also find it attached here for convenience.

- **Cruise Liner SAR information**

Agents will need to ask the cruise company/cruise liner if they are part of the International SAR Repository for each vessel and update the questions on the booking form accordingly. If the vessel being booked is part of the Repository no further information will be required.

If, however, the vessel is not registered with the Repository they will need to submit a SAR plan (per vessel, not per booking) for our records which we will keep on file. If a SAR plan has been submitted previously, agents will need to enquire if any changes have been made to the plan since the cruise liner was last entered into our system or last submitted to us. If there are any updates a new plan will need to be obtained.

All SAR plans for cruise call bookings should be submitted to us via email to the Senior Port Officers ([spo@port.gov.gi](mailto:spo@port.gov.gi)).

Bookings will still be able to be booked even if no SAR plan is immediately available. Each plan will, however, be required before the cruise liner's call to Gibraltar.

- **Cruise Call Custom Entries**

Any booking for a cruise liner that does not yet have an IMO number (or cannot be entered via the number initially for operational reasons) can still be entered using the Custom Entry option. SAR



information will not be required at this point but once the appropriate IMO number is assigned to the vessel the SAR information will be requested via the VMS portal. This must also be done before a cruise liner's arrival.

The start date for these new requirements will be 05 February 2024 at midday.

All cruise call bookings currently in VMS will need to be updated with their latest SAR plan information. Agents will need to advise which cruise liners comply with the "International SAR repository".

Cruise liners that are not a member of the SAR repository will be required to submit a copy of their current SAR plan for our records before the vessel's next call to Gibraltar.

**CAPTAIN OF THE PORT**