



KUZEY

Pandl Correspondents

CIRCULAR NO: 4 /31.07.2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to inform you about a recent development in Turkey regarding a new system called Blue Card System used for the disposal and discharge of the yachts' waste water in Turkish Ports and relevant pollution fines charged in the absence / lack or misuse of the subject system.

On 28.07.2018, most of the local newspapers have published the news that the deputy minister of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, namely Mr. Prof Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpınar, announced that the Blue Card System has been started to be used in all of the ports in Turkey. Reported by the local news, the deputy minister continued saying that " ...*The owners of the yachts, if these have toilets, lavatories inside, give the waste water to the facility at shore at regular intervals. And they certify/record this by using the Blue Card online system. We have granted the authority of controlling this system to the Turkish Coast Guard Command.*"'. During his interview, the deputy minister described the Blue Card System in depth together with the motivation behind it. With this system, it is aimed for all the ports in Turkey to protect the seas and maintain it to the upcoming generations and reach the Blue Flag level in respect of the maximum sea cleanliness. In totally 296 ports in Turkey, which means all of the yacht ports/marinas in Turkey, have started using this system. As Coast Guard Command, who has been granted the authority to control the system, are regularly checking the yachts at sea, they sometime stop by and ask the yacht owners/crew the number of their Blue Card. Then they can check from the relevant online system as to when the waste water was given the last time by that yacht, to which port the waste water was given and when. This can also be checked by The Ministry from the same online system (by entering the number of Blue Card of a certain yacht). If the subject yacht is found not to have given its waste water to the shore, then it is being investigated why it did not and if no reasonable explanation is made by the yacht owner, then the Coast Guard Command fines the owner of the subject yacht for discharging the waste waters into the seas rather than giving same to the shore facilities & certifying/recording this on Blue Card System. These stringent regulation & enforcement is not applicable only to Turkish yacht owners. These are also valid for the foreign flagged yachts sailing in Turkish waters more than 3 days. If the foreign owned yacht stays in Turkish waters for more than 3 days, then the owners have to possess a Blue Card too. In other words, foreign yachts have to record their waste water disposal activities through this online system too.

We understand from the interview of the deputy minister that the yacht owners have to be prudent and use the Blue Card system regularly and as necessary in order to refrain from the considerably high sea pollution fines. The relevant controls and regulations seem to be more stringent than ever. As already known to all by now, Turkish environmental authorities consider sea pollution caused by vessels and yachts, vessels, boats and all other crafts as a major threat to Turkish waters and thus, there are very strict on the regulations and their enforcement. This recent development of Blue Card System should be known to everyone in order to refrain from considerable fines and its consequences. As already known, there is not only the fine but also the criminal aspect of the act of polluting the sea. Therefore, we hope this circular would be of assistance to owners & insurers of the yachts calling to Turkish waters.

For your easy access, we hereby leave the link of the relevant local newspaper publishing the news, although it is in Turkish, we are always ready to assist further in case of any need in translation or interpretation;

Link available on; GAZETE VATAN <http://www.gazetevatan.com/denizleri-kirleten-tekne-ve-milyonluk-yat-sahipleri-yandi-1186187-gundem/>

Kind regards,
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