



**December 20, 2002**

**CIRCULAR NO. 24/02**

**TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**Dear Member:**

**BAN ON SINGLE-HULL TANKERS ENTERING SPANISH PORTS**

The Spanish Government has passed a Royal Decree prohibiting single-hull tankers transporting heavy fuel, tar, asphalt, bitumen or heavy crude oil from entering Spanish ports, terminals or anchorage areas, regardless of their flag.

This Royal Decree became law on December 14, 2002 and will be applied as from January 1, 2003. Any tanker affected by the ban before January 1, 2003, must inform the Spanish maritime authority (normally the Harbor Master) a minimum of twenty-four hours before intending to enter any Spanish port, terminal or anchorage area.

The penalty for breach of the ban is a fine of up to Euros 3,000,000. Members should be aware that the Association cannot cover fines incurred by Members found to be in contravention of this legislation.

If any Members require further information on this subject, they are invited to contact the Managers, who will be pleased to respond.

Yours faithfully,  
Joseph E.M. Hughes, Chairman & CEO  
Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Managers for  
**THE AMERICAN CLUB**