

Hong Kong Fleet Operation Advisory Committee
Implementation of the Hong Kong International Convention
for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views on the implementation of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 (the Convention), which was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in Hong Kong on 15 May 2009.

Background

2. The adopted Convention aims at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment. The Convention is opened for accession and will enter into force 24 months after meeting the entry criteria.¹ At the end of 31 May 2018, six States have acceded to the Convention.² A copy of the English text of the Convention is attached as Annex I of this paper for reference.

Summary of the Convention

3. The Convention contains provisions to cover the design, construction, operation and preparation of ships so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling without compromising the safety and operational efficiency of ships. Upon entry into force of the Convention, all ocean-going vessels (OGVs)

¹ The Convention will enter into force 24 months after the date on which 15 States, representing 40 per cent of world merchant shipping by gross tonnage, have ratified or accessed the Convention. Furthermore, the combined maximum annual ship recycling volume of those States must, during the preceding 10 years, constitute not less than 3 per cent of their combined merchant shipping tonnage.

² Norway, Congo, France, Belgium, Panama and Denmark

of 500 GT and above are prohibited and/or restricted from the installation or the use of the specific hazardous materials on board. All new OGVs of 500 GT and above shall also carry on board a ship-specific Inventory of Hazardous Materials and existing OGVs shall provide such not later than 5 years after the entry into force of the Convention or before going for recycling if this is earlier.

4. Applicable OGVs are also required to have an initial survey and five-yearly renewal survey to verify the inventory of hazardous materials. On completion of the initial survey, every applicable OGV will be issued with an “*International Certificate on Inventory of Hazardous Materials*” certifying that the ship has been provided with the inventory and no prohibited hazardous materials have been used. If necessary, an additional survey will be conducted to ensure that any change, replacement, or significant repair of the structure, equipment, systems, fittings, arrangements and material are in compliance with the Convention. A final survey is required prior to the ship being taken out of service and before the start of recycling of the ship. This final survey shall verify that the Inventory of Hazardous Materials is in accordance with the requirements of the Convention and a ship-specific Ship Recycling Plan is developed by the authorized Ship Recycling Facility(ies). An “*International Ready for Recycling Certificate*” with not more than three months validity will be issued after successful completion of a final survey.

5. Ship Recycling Facilities shall be regulated and duly authorized by the competent authority of a Convention Party where the facilities are located. The facilities shall possess a Ship Recycling Facility Plan (SRFP) adopted by the board or the appropriate governing body of the recycling facilities and be issued with a “*Document of Authorization to conduct Ship Recycling (DASR)*” by the competent authority if the facilities are carrying out recycling procedures in accordance with their SRFP.

6. Upon the partial or complete recycling of a ship is completed, a Statement of Completion shall be issued by the Ship Recycling Facility to its Competent Authority confirming that the ship has been recycled in accordance with the Ship Recycling Plan.

Proposals

7. We propose to make a new legislation to implement the Convention in Hong Kong. The new legislation will enable MD or recognized organizations acting on its behalf to conduct the survey and issue the required certificate certifying that Hong Kong registered OGVs are in full compliance with all aspects of the Convention. It also allows MD officers to conduct port State control inspection to verify that OGVs within Hong Kong waters are in compliance with the requirements stipulated in the Convention.

Consultation

8. Members are invited to give comments on the proposed legislation intent for the implementation the Convention in the HKSAR.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division
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Enclosures:

Annex 1: Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 as adopted by the Conference