

Hong Kong Fleet Operation Advisory Committee
Amendment to Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Fees) Regulation
(Cap. 478 sub. leg. AB)

Purpose

Members are invited to note that the amendment made to Cap. 478AB (the Fees Regulation) for new fees will be effected on 31 May 2019.

Background

2. In 2015 and 2016, the International Maritime Organization adopted two resolutions on seafarers' training requirements under the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (the STCW Convention) concerning (i) ships using low-flashpoint fuels; and (ii) ships operating in polar waters. In order to implement these latest training requirements of the STCW Convention in Hong Kong, two new pieces of subsidiary regulations (the New Regulations) under the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) Ordinance, Cap. 478 (the Ordinance) are to be introduced. The New Regulations are —

(a) the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Ships Using Low-flashpoint Fuels) Regulation; and

(b) the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Ships Operating in Polar Waters) Regulation.

3. The New Regulations empower the Director of Marine (DM) to issue relevant new certificates and determinations thus entailing consequential amendment to the Fees Regulation for new fees.

New fees

Fees related to Certificates of Proficiency (CoPs)

4. Under the New Regulations, DM will issue the following CoPs to eligible seafarers:

- (a) Certificate of Proficiency in basic training for service on ships using low-flashpoint fuels;
- (b) Certificate of Proficiency in advanced training for service on ships using low-flashpoint fuels;
- (c) Certificate of Proficiency in basic training for ships operating in polar waters; and
- (d) Certificate of Proficiency in advanced training for ships operating in polar waters.

5. The fees related to the issuance or renewal of the CoPs mentioned in the above paragraph are **HK\$0** (i.e. free of charge). If a CoP is lost, damaged or defaced, the fee for a replacement of the CoP is **HK\$155** which is the same amount charged for other certificates under the Ordinance.

Fee related to determinations

6. Determinations are written documents to be issued by MD for the explanation and elaboration of detailed certification and training requirements as specified in the New Regulations which will be made available on MD's website for free download. Hard copy of these determinations would also be available for public with a fee of **HK\$155** for each copy which is the same amount charged for other determinations under the Ordinance.

Action

7. Members are invited to take note of the contents of this paper. For any enquiries or comments, please contact MD's Multi-lateral Policy Division by tel.: 2852 4018, email: hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk or fax: 2542 4841.

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Multi-lateral Policy Division