

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Implementation of the Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Signals of Distress and Prevention of Collisions) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 on Local Vessels, Cap. 369N

Purpose

Members are invited to note this information paper pertaining to implementation of the amendments to Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Signals of Distress and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations, Cap.369N, on local vessels.¹

Background

2. Amendments to Cap.369N have been made to implement recent amendments to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 as adopted by the International Maritime Organization.² The Amendment Regulation will come into operation on 1 July 2016. Members were consulted in May 2015 vide LVAC Paper No. 6/2015³ whereby the paper was endorsed.

3. This Regulation is applicable to all Hong Kong registered ships, foreign ships within Hong Kong waters, and local vessels as defined in the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap. 548.

¹ See also “Legislative Council Brief: Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Signals of Distress and Prevention of Collisions) (Amendment) Regulation 2016” (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/subleg/brief/2016ln053-056_brf.pdf) and “Legislative Council Brief: Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Signals of Distress and Prevention of Collisions) (Amendment) Regulation 2016 (Amendment) Regulation 2016” (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/subleg/brief/2016ln094_brf.pdf)

² <http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/COLREG.aspx>

³ http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/aboutus/pdf/lvacp6_15.pdf

Specific Requirements

4. The amendments neither impose any more stringent operational requirements for vessels, nor require additional equipment to be installed. Some requirements have even been relaxed. For example, vessels between 12 and 20 metres in length are no longer required to carry bells. The amended regulation will therefore have no impact on the running cost and operation of local vessels. Details of the Amendment Regulation can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20162018/es22016201853.pdf> and
<http://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20162023/es22016202394.pdf>.

———— Please also see the Marine Department Notice No. 86/2016 at *Annex*.

Enquiries

5. For further enquiries, please contact Local Vessels Safety Section at 2852 4444 or by email: lvs1@mardep.gov.hk or lvs2@mardep.gov.hk.

Maritime Policy Branch
Multi-lateral Policy Division
Marine Department
June 2016

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 86 OF 2016⁴

(Statutory Requirements)

**Implementation of the
Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Signals of Distress and Prevention of Collisions)
(Amendment) Regulation 2016**

Amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Signals of Distress and Prevention of Collisions) Regulations, Cap.369N (“the Regulation”) have been made to implement the recent amendments to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 adopted by the International Maritime Organization. The Amendment Regulation will come into operation on 1 July 2016.

2. In accordance with the application provisions of the Regulation, as well as Section 10 of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313 and Section 27 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap.548, the Regulation applies to Hong Kong registered ships and local vessels wherever they may be and other ships while they are within the waters of Hong Kong.

3. A copy of the said amendments to the Regulation is attached to this Notice and also available on the website of Marine Department:

- <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/notices.html>

4. Shipowners, ship masters, coxswains, agents and operators are advised to note the above, and follow the new requirements accordingly.

H. M. TUNG
Director of Marine (Ag.)

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

Date: 24 June 2016

Action files ref: L/M. No. 14/2016 in MP/N 509/1

⁴ <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/notices/pdf/mdn16086.pdf>