

**LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Issue of two more sets of Codes of Practice  
under section 45A of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap 548)  
and under section 44A of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap 313)**

Further to the LVAC Paper No. 2/2006 of December 2006 relating to subject issue, further two sets of codes of practice are now ready for issue by the Director under the section 45A of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (Cap 548) and under the section 44A of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance (Cap 313).

**Codes of Practice**

2. The attached Codes of Practice of the titles at below which will be issued under the above Ordinances (both in English and Chinese versions):-
  - (a) under section 45A of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance:
    - (i) Code of Practice on Shipboard Container Handling on Local Vessels (January 2007 Edition), and
    - (ii) Code of Practice on Using Protective Clothing and Equipment for Works on Local Vessels (January 2007 Edition);
  - (b) under section 44A of the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance:-
    - (i) Code of Practice on Shipboard Container Handling on Vessels (January 2007 Edition), and
    - (ii) Code of Practice on Using Protective Clothing and Equipment for Works on Vessels (January 2007 Edition).
3. Apart from the widespread consultation with related sectors and in-depth discussion in the PLVAC, the safe working practices mentioned in the context of the aforesaid codes have been universally adopted in the industry. An example is the “Safety Guide for Shipboard Container Handling” which has been published and distributed to the industry for use since December 2001. The safe working practices in the said “Safety Guide” are very much same to

those of the relevant Code of Practice. Not only the “Safety Guide” has been adopted by the industry, coroner inquests also often have made reference to this publication. The final versions of the aforesaid Codes as now presented have been fine-tuned or given some editorial or style changes to align with the terms or meanings expressed in the final version of the new or amended legislations under Cap 548 or Cap 313.

4. Although these Codes in their first edition may not be perfect, we are much confident that they would be at least reasonably practicable as most of the requirements prescribed in these Codes are already in current practice or otherwise the recommendations from coroners’ inquests. Beside, the new or amended legislations allow us for making continuous improvement or amendments in future if found necessary after their being brought into practice.
5. The final versions of these Codes, with any amendments or not, served as practical guidance for the industry will be approved and issued by the Director of Marine under relevant section of the Ordinance of Cap 548 or Cap 313 and these codes will be notified in gazette notice and announced the commencement date.

### **Advice Sought**

6. Should you have any comments on the above codes of practice, please let us know in writing as soon as possible and preferably not later than two weeks from the date of the covering letter.
7. This submission is to bring your attention and support.

*Marine Industrial Safety Section  
Marine Department  
12 January 2007*