

PROVISIONAL LOCAL VESSEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PROPOSAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF TWO MAINLAND INSTITUTIONS AS AUTHORIZED SURVEYOR

1 Purpose

This paper proposes appointment of the following Mainland institutions as Authorized Surveyor : –

- (i) Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration “Guangdong MSA” (中華人民共和國廣東海事局); and
- (ii) Register of Fishing Vessel of People's Republic of China “ China RFV” (中華人民共和國漁業船舶檢驗局).

2 Background

- 2.1 The new Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance (LVO), which is expected to be legislated in the middle of 2003, stipulates that the Director of Marine may authorize in writing a person, or a person belonging to a class of persons, who is not a public officer, to be a surveyor for the purpose of the Ordinance.
- 2.2 The Mainland's ship inspection institutions have long been inspecting Hong Kong's licensed vessels for a number of years due to the national requirement that all vessels built in local yards, including vessels for the foreign owners, are required to be surveyed by these institutions. Since the early 90's, the Hong Kong Marine Department (HKMD) has delegated some of the inspections for Hong Kong locally licensed vessels built in Guangdong Province to the former Guangdong Province Ships Survey Division (廣東省船舶檢驗局 GPSSD). The delegations have included inspections of new vessels under construction and vessels under repair in dry dock. HKMD officers conduct the safety equipment survey and final survey of the vessels upon their arrival in Hong Kong after construction. This practice was extended to the Hong Kong licensed steel fishing vessels built in Mainland since 1997.
- 2.3 Currently the delegation to GPSSD and China RFV for inspections is done on case-by-case

basis. The shipowners, the concerned Mainland institutions and the HKMD have agreed that in order to streamline the administrative procedures a mechanism should be in place to simplify the delegation process. It is therefore intended to appoint the concerned ship inspection institutions as Authorized Surveyor under LVO.

- 2.4 About 250 Hong Kong (HK) licensed vessels annually are currently surveyed by Mainland authorities for some of the statutory surveys on behalf of Director of Marine. This represents about 7% of the total number of HK licensed vessels surveyed for the issue of Certificates of Survey. HK cargo vessels surveys are mainly conducted in Guangdong Province whereas HK fishing vessels surveys are carried out in several coastal provinces of PRC.

3 The Maritime Safety Administration of P.R.C. (China MSA)

The China MSA is the authority in the Mainland to exercise the administration of shipping safety and prevention of pollution from ships. The ship inspection arm of the China MSA in Guangdong, the former GPSSD, is responsible for the approval of construction plans, inspections during construction and repair of domestic operation vessels of all types except fishing vessels. On the technical aspects, the China MSA is linked with the China Classification Society (they were in the same family before re-structuring of state-owned organizations some years ago), with the latter providing necessary back-up to meet the demand for surveys and inspections. Annex I containing some of the rules and regulations promulgated by the China MSA in this regard. In January 2000, the GPSSD, the Guangdong Harbour Superintendence Bureau (廣東省港務監督局) and the Guangdong Maritime Safety Superintendence (廣州海上安全監督局) were combined to form the Guangdong MSA.

4 The Register of Fishing Vessel of P.R.C. (China RFV)

The China RFV is the sole authority responsible for the administration of matters relating to fishing vessels in the Mainland, i.e. the operation and safety of fishing vessels, the management of fishing vessel building and repair yards, etc. The China RFV has a team of 2,300 surveyors nationwide. It also inspects foreign fishing vessels built in Mainland. Its Guangzhou branch office has been undertaking the inspection of Hong Kong licensed fishing vessels on behalf of HKMD since 1997. Surveys for HK fishing vessels are carried out in accordance with the Regulations and Rules developed and promulgated by the China RFV (Annex I refers), but also taking into account any instructions issued by HKMD.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Guangdong MSA and the China RFV are appointed as

Authorized Surveyor to undertake inspection of Hong Kong licensed vessels of non-classed type to be built or repaired in Mainland. The appointment is proposed to take effect upon the enforcement of the LVO.

- 5.2 Under the proposed authorization, the Guangdong MSA may inspect any non-classed type of cargo vessels other than passenger carrying vessels, dangerous goods vessels and some special type vessels and fishing vessels. The China RFV may inspect only non-classed fishing vessels. The inspections will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of HKMD's regulations and codes of practice and instructions issued and updated from time to time.
- 5.3 The aim of the appointment is to provide the owners and operators with more choices so that they can approach these institutions for the inspection of their vessels in the Mainland. Alternatively, they can continue to present their vessels for inspection by HKMD officers or other Authorized Classification Societies or Authorized Surveyors of Registered Professional Engineers (Marine and Naval Architecture).
- 6 Members' endorsement of the proposal in paragraph 5 above is sought.

Local Vessels Safety Branch
Shipping Division
Marine Department
Hong Kong S.A.R.
November, 2002

**(A) Rules and Regulations promulgated by
China Maritime Safety Administration (partial)**

- 1 Maritime Traffic Safety Law of the People's Republic of China
- 2 The Marine Environmental Protection Law of the People's Republic of China
- 3 Water Pollution Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China
- 4 Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Governing Registration of Ships
- 5 Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Aids to Navigation
- 6 Technical Regulations for the Statutory Surveys of Sea-going Ships engaged on International Voyages
- 7 Technical Regulations for the Statutory Surveys of Sea-going Ships engaged on Non-international Voyages
- 8 Technical Regulations for the Statutory Surveys of Inland Waterway Ships

**(B) Rules and Regulations promulgated by
Register of Fishing Vessel of People's Republic of China (partial)**

- 1 Rules for the Construction of Sea-going Steel Fishing Vessels
- 2 Rules for the Construction of Small Sea-going Steel Fishing Vessels
- 3 Rules for the Construction and Survey of Sea-going Wooden Fishing Vessels
- 4 Rules for the Construction of Reinforced Glass Fibre Fishing Vessels