

Shipping Consultative Committee

Proposed Amendments to Merchant Shipping Regulations

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views on the proposed amendments to the Hong Kong Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations (Cap. 413A) to implement the amendments to the revised Annex I of MARPOL 73/78.
2. The Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 2/2005 dated 3 February 2005 summarized the major new requirements of the revised Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 and can be downloaded from the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/pdf/msin0502.pdf>).

Backgrounds

3. IMO adopted Resolutions MEPC.141(54), MEPC.154(55) and MEPC.155(55) on 24 March 2006 and 13 October 2006 respectively, which set out the amendments to the Revised Annex I of MARPOL 73/78 and the Condition Assessment Scheme (Resolution MEPC.94(46)). A copy of the Resolutions is enclosed for members' reference.

Summary of Amendments

4. Resolution MEPC.141(54) consists of:
 - (a) a new regulation 12A to stipulate the requirements of "Oil fuel tank protection" for ships;
 - (b) a new regulation 1.28.9 to define the ships that have to comply with the requirements of regulation 12A "Oil fuel tank protection";
 - (c) a new paragraph 2A to the Supplement (Forms A and B) of the IOPP Certificate to indicate compliance of the requirements of regulation 12A; and
 - (d) a new definition of heavy grade oil to the text of regulation 21.2.2.

The above amendments will come into force on 1 August 2007.

5. Resolution MEPC.154(55) is related to:
a new regulation 1.11.10 to define the "Special Area" of "Southern South African waters", which will come into force on 1 March 2008.
6. Resolution MEPC.155(55) is related to:
new amendments to the Conditions Assessment Scheme, (adopted by Resolution MEPC.94(46) and required under regulations 20.6, 20.7 and 21.6.1), which will come into force on 1 March 2008.

Implementation of International Requirements

7. HKSAR should keep in line with the international standards and implement the new requirements mentioned in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 above by amending the Hong Kong Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations (Cap. 413A).

Consultation

8. Members' comments are invited on our above proposal to implement the international requirements for Hong Kong registered ships.

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