

Shipping Consultative Committee

Review of the Control of Dark Smoke Emission from Vessels in the Hong Kong Waters

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek members' endorsement on the proposal to implement the dark smoke emission control measures for ships within the Hong Kong waters.

Background

2. The Marine Department has conducted a review on the control of dark smoke emission from vessels in the waters of Hong Kong in order to address the public concern on air quality in Hong Kong.
3. There are provisions under the Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, Cap. 313 and Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap. 548 to control excessive smoke emission but they are vague in defining the circumstances, quantity of smoke and duration of emission that may constitute an offence.
4. In the course of the review, it is learnt that some ports have engaged the use of Ringelmann Chart to determine the level of dark smoke emission.

Implementation of the Dark Smoke Emission Requirements

5. As a result of the review MD proposes to use Ringelmann Chart as a reference to measure the extent of dark smoke emission for vessels in the Hong Kong waters. Any smoke emission darker than the Shade 2 of the Ringelmann Chart for more than 3 minutes would constitute an offence. This new requirement would be included as part of the proposed Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation, the subsidiary legislation under Cap 413 to give effect to MARPOL Annex VI.

Consultation

6. Members are invited to comment and endorse on the above proposal.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division
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