

Shipping Consultative Committee

Proposed Amendment to the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Medical Stores) Regulation - Cap.478X

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' endorsement for amending the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Medical Stores) Regulation, Cap.478X, with respect to the medicines and medical stores required to be carried by Hong Kong ships.

Background

2. Subject to the scope of "Application" in pursuant to the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Medical Stores) Regulation, Cap.478X, (the Regulation), Hong Kong ships are required to carry medicines and medical stores as stipulated (Appendix 1).

3. Over the years since the enactment of the Regulation in 1996, many ship owners have reflected that the supply of certain medicines are not easily obtainable worldwide as well as not even be available in the market at all.

4. As a stop-gap measure to address ship owners' concern, the Hong Kong Marine Department (HKMD) issued a Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note (HKMSIN) on 7 September 2006 to all concerned parties propositioning an alternative medicines and medical equipment to be kept on board Hong Kong seagoing ships and Hong Kong ships carrying dangerous goods (Appendix 2).

The Proposal

5. Taking the opportunity today whereby HKMD has consulted the Port Health when drafting legislative amendment to the Regulation, it is hereby proposed that HK seagoing ships shall comply with the medicines and medical stores requirements in accordance with the latest "International Medical Guide for Ships" (IMG) as well as the "Medical First Aid Guide for use in accidents

involving dangerous goods” (MFAG) for ships carrying dangerous goods.

Consultation

6. Members are requested to comment and endorse the proposal on or before 7 February 2014.

Shipping Division
Marine Department
28 January 2014