



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Voluntary Structural Guidelines for New Ships Carrying Liquids in Bulk Containing Benzene

To : Shipowners, Ship Mangers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters, Classification Societies and Shipbuilders

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate the IMO voluntary structural guidelines for new ships carrying liquids in bulk containing benzene.

1. Chronic exposure to very low concentrations of benzene vapours in air may cause leukaemia. To protect the health of seafarers, IMO Maritime Safety Committee at its 82nd session approved the voluntary guidelines for new ships carrying liquids in bulk containing benzene. The guidelines provide technical improvements in the following design and equipment of tankers to reduce the exposure of seafarers to benzene vapours:

- Ventilation in the accommodation
- Ventilation in the engine room
- Airlocks
- Washing and changing facilities
- Spill trays and purging air capability
- Cargo measurements and sampling
- Gas-freeing
- Tank washing and stripping
- Controlled tank venting system

2. The details of the guidelines are contained in MSC.1/Circ.1220, a copy of which is attached to this Note for reference.

3. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of the Hong Kong registered ships are requested to note the guidelines and act accordingly.

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23 January 2007