



## 香 港 商 船 資 訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

**International Health Regulation**

*To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Agents*

**Summary**

This Notice reminds that the new International Health Regulations have come into force since 15 June 2007, and provides information regarding the change in procedures in Hong Kong in the application for ship hygiene documents and the Radio Pratique. Ship operators are also reminded to take note of any change in corresponding procedures imposed by other countries.

1. The new International Health Regulations (IHR(2005)) have come into force internationally since 15 June 2007. Shipowners and ship operators should take note of the following:

(1) Ship hygiene documents under the IHR(2005)

Starting from 15 June 2007, the Ship Sanitation Control Certificate (SSCC) and the Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate (SSCEC) would replace the Deratting Certificate (DC) and Deratting Exemption Certificate (DEC) as the ship hygiene documents under IHR(2005). However, DCs and DECAs issued before 15 June 2007 are still acceptable to the Hong Kong SAR as valid ship hygiene documents until they expire. Starting from 15 June 2007, the Port Health Office of the Department of Health is responsible for issuing the SSCC/SSCEC; and they will carry out the necessary ship inspections for the issue of SSCC or SSCEC.

(2) Ports designated under IHR

Only those DEC/DC issued by the designated ports under IHR(2005) would be recognised by the Hong Kong Administration. The list of designated ports according to the World Health Organization can be found in the Department of Health webpages <[www.dh.gov.hk/tc\\_chi/useful/useful\\_forms/useful\\_forms\\_qpd.html](http://www.dh.gov.hk/tc_chi/useful/useful_forms/useful_forms_qpd.html)> and <[www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful\\_forms/useful\\_forms\\_qpd.html](http://www.dh.gov.hk/english/useful/useful_forms/useful_forms_qpd.html)>. Ships without valid ship hygiene documents issued by a designated port would not be granted *Radio Pratique*, and such ships will not be allowed to leave Hong Kong.

(3) Application for *Radio Pratique*

- (i) The new form for *Radio Pratique* can be downloaded from the webpages mentioned above. Applicants should state on the form the country and port that issued the ship hygiene certificate. If the certificate was not issued by a designated port no *Radio Pratique* would be granted, and the ship would be subject to ship inspections by Port Health Officer upon its arrival in Hong Kong. Also, such ship will not be allowed to leave Hong Kong without the relevant ship hygiene certificate issued by the Port Health Office.
- (ii) Ships which have been to any Vietnam port within 6 days of its estimated time of arrival in Hong Kong are normally eligible for applying *Radio Pratique* unless considered otherwise by the World Health Organization.

(4) New form for Maritime Declaration of Health

In Hong Kong the Maritime Declaration of Health (DH 168) has now been revised. Forms can be downloaded from the webpages mentioned above. The master is required to submit a copy of the Maritime Declaration of Health and a copy of the DEC/DC or SSCEC/SSCC, together with the crew list and passenger list within 24 hours of arrival. The application can be done by fax (Fax no.: 2574 7136) or by post to the Port Health Office (Address of the Port Health Office: 18th Floor, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong.). The original copy of the Maritime Declaration of Health should be kept by the company for at least 3 months.

2. Ship masters and operators should note that different statutory requirements with regard to IHR(2005) may also be imposed by other countries. Therefore it is important to obtain the necessary information from the competent authorities of those countries the ship may call upon, as soon as possible.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy Division

18 June 2007