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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Clarification of the Term “Bulk Carrier” and Guidance for Application of Regulations in SOLAS to Cargo Ships which Occasionally Carry Dry Cargoes in Bulk

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and Classification Societies

Summary

This Note draws attention to the IMO Resolution MSC.277(85) relating to information on clarification of the term “bulk carrier” and Guidance for application of regulations in SOLAS to ships which occasionally carry dry cargoes in bulk but are not determined as bulk carriers in accordance with Regulation XII/1.1 and Chapter II-1.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee at its 85th Session in November 2008 adopted the Resolution MSC.277(85) on clarification of the term “bulk carrier” and Guidance for application of regulations in SOLAS to ships which occasionally carry dry cargoes in bulk.
2. It should be noted the Guidance covers new ships only, and the Resolution MSC.277(85) is non-mandatory and intended to facilitate the development of future amendments to SOLAS so as to mandate its application. Since the recommendations could enhance the safety of ships which occasionally carry dry cargoes in bulk, the parties concerned are encouraged to follow the Guidance.
3. The IMO Resolution MSC.277(85) is attached to this Note for ready reference.

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