



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (International Safety Management (ISM) Code)

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Masters and Recognized Organizations

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to provide updated information and guidance to shipowners, ship managers, ship masters and recognized organizations on the implementation of the ISM Code to Hong Kong registered ships. The previous Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 44/2004 is hereby superseded by this Note.

Introduction

1. The International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention (ISM Code) requires ship owners or ship managers responsible for operations of ships to set up a safe management system. The mandatory application of the ISM Code results in the issue of two certificates:

- a) Document of Compliance (DOC) – a certificate issued to the company following a successful assessment of the shore side aspects of the safety management system; and
- b) Safety Management Certificate (SMC) – a certificate issued to individual ship after an onboard assessment of the safety management system.

Passenger Ships

2. The Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) is responsible for the assessment, issue and renewal of ISM Code Certificates and their periodic verification relating to passenger ships. Application for DOC and SMC certification and verification relating to passenger ships should be addressed to the International Safety Management (ISM) Section of the Marine Department.

Cargo Ships

3. MD will not involve directly in the ISM certification and verification work relating to cargo ships unless specifically requested by ship owners. The following Recognized Organisations (ROs) are authorized to carry out statutory audits for Hong Kong registered cargo ships and their companies and issue interim or full term DOC and SMC on behalf of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region:

- (a) American Bureau of Shipping (ABS);
- (b) Bureau Veritas (BV);
- (c) China Classification Society (CCS);
- (d) Det Norske Veritas (DNV);
- (e) Germanischer Lloyd (GL);
- (f) Korean Register of Shipping (KR);
- (g) Lloyd's Register (LR);
- (h) Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NKK); and
- (i) RINA S.p.A. (RINA)

Shipowners or ship managers may choose any one of the above mentioned ROs as the ISM certification body for DOC and/or SMC certification.

4. For a new shipping company to the Hong Kong Shipping Registry, MD will participate in the immediate periodical DOC verification with the RO. For this type of audit participation, there is no charge to the ship manager. The ship manager shall notify MD as earliest possible to enable MD to arrange surveyor to attend the audit.

ISM audits under FSQC system

5. Under the “Flag State Quality Control” (FSQC) system, MD has the right to audit company if the quality of a ship is found to be deteriorating and the cause can be traced back to the ship manager. Fees will not be required for the initial audit under this system but the shipowner or the ship manager will be charged, in accordance with the Merchant Shipping (Fees) Regulations, if recurrence happens.

Further information and enquiry

6. If you have any queries regarding ISM certification, please contact Senior Surveyor/ISM (Tel. No.: 2852 4504, Fax No.: 2545 0556 or e-mail to “ssism@mardep.gov.hk”).

Marine Department
Shipping Division

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