



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Consular Assistance for Hong Kong Registered Ships, Hong Kong Registered Seafarers and Seafarers working on Hong Kong registered ships

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ships Operators, Masters and Officers

Summary

From time to time, Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong registered seafarers and the seafarers who are working on Hong Kong registered ships may require the People's Republic of China (PRC) Consular assistance under certain circumstances. In this regard, the owners, managers, operators, masters and officers of responsible on Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong registered seafarers and the seafarers who are working on Hong Kong registered ships should be guided by the advice given in this Note and the annexed guidelines issued to the PRC Consulates in 1997. This Note supersedes the Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 33/2004 issued on 8 November 2004.

Services required from the PRC Consulates

1. Marine Department considers the services required from the PRC Consuls taking into account the current international conventions, Hong Kong legislation and departmental procedures. The required services fall into the following two categories:

- (a) matters where consular assistance should be made available; and
- (b) instances where Consuls are requested to furnish to the Marine Department any relevant information coming to their notice but not requiring any action.

The annexed guidelines to the PRC Consuls have been attached herewith.

PRC Consular assistance for Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong registered seafarers and the seafarers who are working on Hong Kong registered ships

2. In 1997, the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs instructed the PRC Embassies and consuls world-wide to provide services to Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong registered seafarers and the seafarers who are working on Hong Kong registered ships in accordance with the annexed guidelines. The Embassies and Consuls were further instructed to render maximum assistance to Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong registered seafarers and the seafarers who are working on Hong Kong registered ships whenever approached.

Communications

3. Owners, managers and operators responsible for Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong registered seafarers and the seafarers who are working on Hong Kong registered ships are advised to place a copy of this Note on board all Hong Kong registered ships or ships employing Hong Kong registered seafarers, and issue instructions to the master and officers to follow the advice contained in the Note. In case of any difficulties in relation to consular services, the offices mentioned in paragraph 4 of the Annex should be contacted in the first instance.

Marine Department
Shipping Division

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