



香港商船通告
HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE

Guidelines for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water

In the 20th session of the Assembly, the International Maritime Organization adopted Resolution A.868(20) - "Guidelines for the control and management of ships' ballast water to minimize the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens". A copy of the Guidelines is annexed to this notice for reference.

2. Studies have shown that many species of bacteria, plants and animals can survive in the ballast water carried in ships, even after journeys of several months' duration. Subsequent discharge of ballast water may result in the establishment of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens which may pose threats to the indigenous marine environment. The objective of the Guidelines is intended to assist port authorities, ship masters and operators in minimizing the risk of transfer of harmful aquatic organisms through ships' ballast water while protecting ships' safety.

3. Compliance with the Guidelines is not, at present, legally required for Hong Kong ships. However, ship master and operator should adopt operational procedures and preventive measures as set out in the Guidelines when such measures are required by a port State to which the ship is calling for. The ship master should also pay particular attention to the safety aspects when carrying out ballasting operation.

4. This notice supersedes Merchant Shipping Notice no. 10/1994. Shipowners or managers who require any further information on the subject are invited to contact the Marine Department by telephone on 2852 4605 or facsimile on 2542 4841.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

16 March 1998