

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 172 OF 2003

(Miscellaneous Information)

Basic Safety Training Requirement for Hong Kong Licensed Vessels Crew within the waters of Guangdong

1. This Notice serves to remind shipowners, ship operators and crew of Hong Kong licensed vessels that with effect from 1 January 2004, Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration and Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration will require all crew, other than certified master and engineer, working onboard Hong Kong licensed vessels operating within Guangdong waters, to carry with them a valid certificate showing the compliance with the required basic safety training. All concerned parties are recommended to take appropriate action to fulfill such requirement.

2. Owing to the above, the Task Force on Training of Local Vessels' Crew under the Maritime Services Training Board in early 2003 drafted the curriculum of the "Basic Safety Training Course for Local Vessels Crew". The course was approved by the Marine Department and recognized by Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration and Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration. Members of the Task Force comprise officers of the relevant HKSAR government departments, representatives from maritime training institute, local operators' Associations and Unions.

3. The recognized certificates of the required basic safety training are the "Basic Safety Training for Local Vessels Crew Certificate" (yellow card), or "Fire Fighting Certificate" plus "Personal Survival Techniques Certificate". The above certificates are issued by the Maritime Services Training Institute (previously known as Seamen's Training Centre) of Hong Kong.

4. From 1 January 2004 to 30 June 2004, if those crew (other than certified master and engineer) working onboard Hong Kong licensed vessels in the Guangdong waters could not produce the above valid certificates for inspection by the authorized officer, the responsible persons of the vessel will be warned. Starting from 1 July 2004, Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration or Shenzhen Maritime Safety Administration shall take legal action in accordance with the law of the People's Republic of China against the responsible persons of the vessel if the aforesaid crew could not produce the valid recognized certificates for inspection.

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Marine Department,
The Government of the HKSAR
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