

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 1 OF 1996

Enforcement of Rule of the Road in Victoria Harbour

Masters, Coxswains and persons-in-charge of vessels are reminded to strictly follow the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 while transiting the Victoria Harbour.

2. Particular attention should be given to the following:

- a) to maintain a constant and proper lookout by sight and hearing as well as by all available means to determine whether there is a risk of collision;
- b) to proceed at a safe speed appropriate to the circumstances and not to exceed the maximum permitted speed;
- c) not to enter marine works area;
- d) to keep the Tsim Sha Tsui Light Buoy on the port side when proceeding along the Hung Hom Fairway;
- e) to use proper sound signals whenever it is required to do so;
- f) when vessels are engaged in towing:
 - (i) the tow line should not exceed the length of the vessel being towed or two and a half times the length of the towing vessel, whichever is greater and in no circumstances other than in an emergency should a tow line be longer than 100 metres,
 - (ii) appropriate lights and shapes must be displayed,
 - (iii) not more than two vessels may be towed by a single tug at one time.

3. Mariners using principal fairways in the Central Harbour area are required to keep to the starboard side of the fairway as far as it is safe and practicable in accordance with Rule 9 of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972. Patrol officers of the Marine Department and Marine Police will take enforcement action to ensure vessels are navigating in compliance with relevant regulations.

I. B. DALE
DIRECTOR OF MARINE

Marine Department
Hong Kong

Date : 10 January 1996

Action file ref. : PA/S 914/1/9 (2)

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