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27 November 2007

To : *Shipowners / Ship Managers and Classification Societies*

Dear Sir/Madam,

**GMDSS Radio Installations Operation and Maintenance**

During the recent FSQC inspection on the Hong Kong ships and the PSC reports received from various port States, the following GMDSS radio deficiencies were noted :-

- a. Deck Officers holding valid GMDSS radio certificates are not familiar with the onboard radio installations and incompetent for operation;
- b. Performance tests on the digital selective calling (DSC) radio installations are ended without acknowledgement and sometimes test records were not logged; and
- c. Emergency source of power for the GMDSS radio installation are not properly maintained.

2. Port State control inspections may concentrate on the ship's GMDSS equipment, operation and recording of communications and maintenance standards. Ship managers are therefore urged to ensure that deck officers are familiar with the use of the onboard radio installations and include this item as a familiarization items for new joining deck officers holding GMDSS radio certificates. Company should also monitor the effectiveness of training and take appropriate actions should such training is not satisfactory.

3. Test on DSC radio installations must be completed with reception acknowledgement so that the effectiveness of the equipment could be ensured. If no acknowledgement is received despite of numerous tests, it should be recorded in the radio log book and the shore engineer should be called upon to check the effectiveness of the DSC radio.

4. Maintenance of the emergency power source for the radio equipment is one of the favourable item for the PSC officers and should the emergency power source is exhausted, it will likely lead to detention of the vessel. Officers responsible for the radio equipment maintenance should therefore need to check if the emergency power source is always in satisfactory condition.

5. If you have any questions related to GMDSS matters for Hong Kong ships, please contact Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety at

telephone number : (852) 2852 4510,

fax number : (852) 2545 0556;

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Yours faithfully,



(S. W. Cheung)  
Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety  
for Director of Marine

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