



香港中環統一碼頭道38號  
海港政府大樓24樓

24/F., Harbour Building,  
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

電話號碼: (852) 2852 4510  
傳真號碼: (852) 2545 0556

Tel. No.: (852) 2852 4510  
Fax No.: (852) 2545 0556

網站: Website: <https://www.mardep.gov.hk>  
電郵地址: E-mail: [ss\\_css@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:ss_css@mardep.gov.hk)  
貴署檔案: Your Ref.: ---  
本處檔案: Our Ref.: SD/S 800/1

25 September 2019

To: Shipowners/ Ship Managers, Masters, Officers and Crewmembers

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Responsibility of Shipowners and Ship Managers over Seafarer Wages**

Recently, a Hong Kong registered ship was detained in an Australian port for non-payment of crew wages which violates the requirements stipulated in Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006). Although after the detention the manning agent took immediate action to pay the crew, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) had subsequently refused the ship of access to Australian ports for a period of 18 months.

The Hong Kong Marine Department (HKMD) has conducted a post-detention Document of Compliance (DOC) audit on the ship manager of the vessel. Although the rectification action plan was accepted for releasing the vessel from PSC detention, its thorough root cause analysis and preventive action plan have to be submitted for review by HKMD to determine further actions against the ship manager.

Australia has been advocating its zero-tolerance approach towards crew payment related violations for its direct detrimental effect on the individual seafarers and their dependents. HKMD is in full agreement with this approach.

This circular letter is to draw the attention of shipowners, ship managers, crewing managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew on board Hong Kong-registered ships that all seafarers shall be paid for their work regularly and in full in accordance with their crew agreements, and payment due to seafarers working on Hong Kong-registered ships are to be made at no greater than monthly intervals and in accordance with applicable crew agreement.

Shipowners/ship managers are fully responsible for the performance of their appointed manning agents and have to establish mechanism to ensure that payment has actually reached the seafarers in accordance with the above requirements.

Should you have enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Cargo Ships Safety Section as follows:

Telephone No. :	(852) 2852 4510
Fax No. :	(852) 2545 0556
Email Address :	<a href="mailto:ss_css@mardep.gov.hk">ss_css@mardep.gov.hk</a>

Yours faithfully,

*No signature on website copy*

(S. Y. CHAN)

General Manager/Ship Safety Branch  
for Director of Marine