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MARINE DEPARTMENT
MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICE
3/F., HARBOUR BUILDING
38 PIER ROAD, HONG KONG

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23 December 2020

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers and Masters of Hong Kong registered ships

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Australian Maritime Safety Authority's Marine Notice 10/2020 -
"Updated Temporary Arrangements for the
Maximum Period of Shipboard Service for Seafarers
during Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic"**

This circular letter draws the attention of shipowners, managers, and masters of all Hong Kong registered ships of the Marine Notice 10/2020 issued by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) in November 2020.

2. The above Notice stipulates that the arrangements as set out in AMSA's Marine Notice 04/2020 will be valid only until 28 February 2021. After 28 February 2021, AMSA will revert to the earlier compliance and enforcement approach whereby their inspectors will verify the compliance with Regulation 2.4 of the MLC, 2006 to ensure that seafarers serve no longer than 11 months continuously on board a vessel. This will include verification that any service extensions do not result in seafarers serving on board for more than 11 months.

A copy of the Marine Notice 10/20 is attached for reference.

3. To avoid your vessel from being detained or suffer from any delay in operation during the stay in Australia waters arising from port State inspection, please ensure that you comply with the requirements as set out in the Notice. You should also ensure that the seafarer employment agreements (SEA) for all crew on board are valid. Any crew who has or will have completed the SEA should be timely repatriated. For any repatriation plan, please ensure that the plan, with justifications, and all relevant supporting documents and records are properly kept on board and readily available for inspection by AMSA inspectors.

4. For enquiries, please contact the undersigned on Tel: (852) 2852 4383, Fax: (852) 2545 4669, or email: mno_mdd@mardep.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website copy)

(Z.J. Kuang)
Mercantile Marine Office
for Director of Marine

Attachment: AMSA's Marine Notice 10/2020

c.c.: Hong Kong Shipowners Association
Hong Kong Seamen's Union
Merchant Navy Officers' Guild
Amalgamated Union of Seafarers, H.K