



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Guidelines on Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident and Request for Information on Mistreatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Officers

Summary

This Note promulgates the “Guidelines on fair treatment of seafarers in the event of a maritime accident” and request for information on mistreatment of seafarers in the event of a maritime accident.

1. Seafarers are recognized as a special category of workers and, given the global nature of the shipping industry and the many different jurisdictions with which they may be in contact, seafarers need special protection, especially in relation with public authorities. The Joint IMO/ILO Secretariat issued Circular letter No. 2825 on 7 November 2007, as a result of concern for the welfare of seafarers who may be detained in a foreign port when a ship is involved in a casualty. A copy of the IMO/ILO Circular letter No. 2825 is attached for ready reference.
2. The IMO/ILO Circular letter No. 2825 contains:
 - the *Guidelines on Fair Treatment of Seafarers in the Event of a Maritime Accident* which provide advice on the necessary steps to be taken by the various interests that may be involved following a maritime accident i.e. the port or coastal state, the flag state, the seafarer state, the shipowners and the seafarers themselves ; and
 - request for information concerning the mistreatment of seafarers in the event of a maritime accident involving seafarers.

3. Shipowners, ship operators, masters and officers are advised to note the information provided in the circular and report any information concerning the mistreatment of seafarers in event of a maritime accident involving Hong Kong registered ships to:

Marine Accident Investigation Section
Marine Department
21/F., Harbour Building
38 Pier Road, Central
Hong Kong

Telephone : (852) 2852 4523
Fax : (852) 2543 0805
Email : ss-mai@mardep.gov.hk

4. Information concerning the mistreatment of **non** Hong Kong seafarers should also be reported to their respective seafarer States.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

19 February 2008