



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Guidance on Large Scale Rescue Operations at Sea

To : Shipowners, Ship Manager, Operators, Masters and Officers.

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to inform shipping community the guidance on large scale operations at sea and to ensure the safety and security of crews who may be involved in rescuing large numbers of persons at sea, as well as the people they rescue. This guidance is intended to supplement *Rescue at Sea: A Guide to Principles and Practice as Applied to Refugees and Migrants* updated in 2014 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in co-operation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).

1. At the 95th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 95) held from 3 to 12 June 2015, the Committee has considered the document MSC 95/21/1 (ICS) which provided the new industry guidance on large scale operations at sea to ensure the safety and security of seafarers and rescued persons during such operations. MSC 95/21/1 was developed in response to the growing number of merchant ships involved in the rescue of persons, often migrants, in the Mediterranean.
2. The copy of “Guidance on ensuring the safety and security of seafarers and rescue persons – Large Scale Rescue Operations At Sea” and “Rescue at Sea – A Guide to Principles and Practice as Applied to Refugees and Migrants” are annexed to this Note and can be found on the webpage of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>).
3. All parties concerned are advised to note the information provided in the annexed documents and act accordingly.

Marine Department
Shipping Division

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