



香港商船資訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Adoption of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) and Amendments to SOLAS and MARPOL

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

Summary

This Note serves to inform about the adoption of the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code) and relevant amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) at its 94th session and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 68th session adopted the International Code for Ships Operating in Polar Waters (Polar Code). The Polar Code specifies additional requirements on safety measures and environmental protection for ships sailing in the polar waters. The relevant safety-related and environment-related requirements of the Polar Code are made mandatory by amendments to the SOLAS Convention and MARPOL Convention respectively. The amendments to both Conventions are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2017.

2. The MEPC at its 68th session also approved the circular MEPC.1/Circ.856 on guidance for issuing revised certificates, manuals and record books for compliance with environment-related requirements of the Polar Code.

3. The following documents in relation to the implementation of the Polar Code are annexed to this Note and can be found on the webpage of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) : -

- (a) MEPC.264(68) - International Code For Ships Operating In Polar Waters (Polar Code);
- (b) MSC.386(94) - Amendments to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea;

- (c) MEPC.265(68) - Amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV and V; and
- (d) MEPC.1/Circ.856 - Guidance for issuing revised certificates, manuals and record books under Annexes I, II and V of MARPOL for compliance with environment-related requirements of the Polar Code

4. All parties concerned are advised to take note of these documents and act accordingly.

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