



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Guidance on Distress Alerts

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned of the revised Guidance on distress alerts.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee ("MSC") of the International Maritime Organization ("IMO"), at its 106th session in November 2022, approved the circular MSC.1/Circ.1658 with a view to providing the revised Guidance on distress alerts.
2. This circular describes the operating procedure for a distress alert, in accordance with chapter IV of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 ("SOLAS"). The circular MSC.1/Circ.1658 becomes effective on 1 January 2024, superseding COMSAR/Circ.45 as from that date.
3. The circular MSC.1/Circ.1658 can be found on the website of Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachment to this Note.
4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters and classification societies of Hong Kong registered ships are required to note the guidance and act accordingly.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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