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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Coming into Force of Amended Hong Kong Legislation Implementing IMSBC Code, 1988 Load Lines Protocol, MARPOL Annex I and SOLAS Chapter II-1, III and IV Requirements

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to draw the attention of the parties concerned to six (6) pieces of amended Hong Kong legislation, which implement the latest requirements in relation to IMSBC Code, 1988 Load Lines Protocol, MARPOL Annex I and SOLAS adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The legislative amendments to IMSBC Code will come into operation on 1 December 2023, whilst the others will enter into force on 1 January 2024.

1. To implement the latest requirements of IMSBC Code, 1988 Load Lines Protocol, MARPOL Annex I and SOLAS Chapters II-1, III and IV adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the following subsidiary regulations have been amended under the Merchant Shipping (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 369) and the Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413) —

- (1) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Load Line) (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (Cap. 369AD);
- (2) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Life-Saving Appliances and Arrangements, Masters and Training) (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (Cap. 369AY);
- (3) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (IMSBC Code) (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (Cap. 369AZ);
- (4) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Radiocommunications) (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (Cap. 369BB);

- (5) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Construction and Survey) (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (Cap. 369BD); and
- (6) Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (Cap. 413A).

The date of coming into operation for Cap.369AZ will be on 1 December 2023 and the other five regulations will be on 1 January 2024.

2. Copies of the above-mentioned regulations can be found in the website of Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as Annexes 1 to 6.

3. Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Classification Societies and Shipbuilders are required to take note and comply with the requirements of these amended regulations.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

18 October 2023