Guidelines For Bulk Carrier Hatch Covers Surveys and Owner's Inspections and Maintenance

To: Shipowners, ship managers, operators, masters and classification societies

Summary

This Note promulgates Guidelines for bulk carrier hatch cover surveys and owner’s inspections and maintenance approved by the Maritime Safety Committee, at its 77th session (28 May to 6 June 2003).

1. The Maritime Safety Committee issued the MSC/Circ.1071 to provide Guidelines for bulk carrier hatch cover surveys and owner’s inspections and maintenance. These Guidelines are intended primarily for large steel hatch covers on bulk carriers to which SOLAS chapter XII applies. However, they may also be relevant to other minimum freeboard ship types having steel covers in exposed positions.

2. The Guidelines contain design considerations on the strength of securing devices of hatch covers and the detailed requirements on maintenance programme and surveys for hatch covers and hatch opening, closing, securing and sealing systems. A copy of the Guidelines is attached for ready reference.

3. Shipowners, managers, operators, masters and classification societies are recommended to follow the Guidelines to implement the maintenance programme and survey requirements.

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