



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Guidelines on Early Assessment of Hull Damage and Possible Need for Abandonment of Bulk Carriers

To : Shipowners, Ship Operators, Masters and Crew

Summary

This Note promulgates the Guidelines on early assessment of hull damage and possible need for abandonment of bulk carriers in IMO Circular MSC/Circ.1143. The Guidelines apply to bulk carriers and other ships carrying dense cargoes.

1. Records of bulk carrier accidents indicated that such ships are vulnerable to rapid sinking due to hull structure failure. In view of this, amongst other measures, the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization, at its 79th session, approved the Guidelines on early assessment of hull damage and possible need for abandonment of bulk carriers by circular MSC/Circ.1143. This circular contains information on some common causes of hull damage and actions to be taken by master and crew members in case of flooding. The Guidelines apply equally to ship other than bulk carriers when carrying dense cargoes.
2. A copy of circular MSC/Circ.1143 is attached for ready reference. The companies, as defined in the ISM Code, are urged to issue ship specific guidance, based on the Guidelines, to the masters with a view to improving the precautionary measures and procedures for emergencies on board their ships where the Guidelines are applicable. The ship specific guidance should be brought to the attention of all crew members during familiarization training.

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