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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Guidance on the Access of Public Authorities, Emergency Response Services and Pilots on Board Ships to which SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code Apply

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Officers and Crew

Summary

This note provides guidance on how access control to ships should be implemented for public officials and pilots under certain circumstances in complying with the relevant provisions of SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization, at its 80th session, approved the “*Guidance on the Access of Public Authorities, Emergency Response Services and Pilots on Board Ships to which SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code Apply*” by circular MSC/Circ.1156.

2. The Guidance provides, among other specific advice, the following recommendations:

- Identification of persons
- Examination of persons who would like to embark
- Accompanying persons on board
- Access to areas that are not public
- Firearms
- Recommended procedures for embarkation of pilots
- Information regarding the consequences of delaying a ship

3. A copy of the MSC/Circ.1156 is annexed to this Note for easy reference. All shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew are reminded to observe the guidance as appropriate.

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30 June 2005