Guidelines on the Basic Elements of a Shipboard Occupational Health and Safety Programme

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate the guidelines on the basic elements of a shipboard occupational health and safety programme.

1. IMO Maritime Safety Committee at its 81st session and Marine Environment Protection Committee at its 53rd session approved guidelines on the basic elements of a shipboard occupational health and safety programme. The guidelines set out the following elements which are fundamental pieces of a systematic occupational health and safety programme:

- Management commitment and leadership
- Employee participation
- Hazard anticipation, identification, evaluation and control
- Training
- Record keeping
- Contract or third party personnel
- Fatality, injury, illness and incident investigation
- Systematic shipboard occupational health and safety evaluation

2. The guidelines may be used by shipowners, ship managers and shipboard personnel to implement, improve or audit the effectiveness of a shipboard occupational health and safety programme. The details of the guidelines are contained in MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.3, which can be found on the website of Marine Department (http://www.mardep.gov.hk) as an attachment to this Note.
3. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators and ship masters of Hong Kong registered ships are required to note the guidelines and act accordingly.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

24 July 2006