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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Secondary Pressure/Vacuum Relief Valve for Cargo Tanks

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO Resolution MSC.57(67) on secondary means of pressure/vacuum relief or pressure sensors for cargo tanks. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No. 22/1998.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 67th session in December 1996, adopted Resolution MSC.57(67) for the amendments to SOLAS regulations. This Resolution amended SOLAS Reg. II-2/59.1, in that tankers shall be fitted with secondary means of pressure/vacuum relief or pressure sensors for cargo tanks.
2. The resolution MSC.57(67) can be found as attachment to this Note on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>).
3. The Resolution had entered into force on 1 July 1998. The amendments to SOLAS Reg. II-2/59.1 will apply to both new ships and existing ships. Existing ships constructed before 1 July 1998 shall comply with the new requirements of Reg. II-2/59.1.2.3 and 59.1.3.3 by the date of the first scheduled dry-docking after 1 July 1998, but not later than 1 July 2001.
4. For clarification of the industry, the following interpretations regarding the secondary pressure/vacuum relief for the application of Reg. II-2/59.1.2.3 should be noted:

- i) Both the primary and secondary pressure/vacuum relief may be incorporated into the inert gas piping;
- ii) If cargo operation of a cargo tank or cargo tank group which is isolated from a common venting system is intended, then the cargo tank or cargo tank group shall be fitted with a means of pressure/vacuum relief as required in Reg. II-2/59.1.2.3;
- iii) The mast riser of inert gas system can be considered as a primary venting arrangement of Reg. II-2/59.1.2.2;
- iv) The primary pressure/vacuum relief of Reg. II-2/59.1.2.2 is required to comply with Reg. II-2/59.1.9. However there is no requirement of compliance with Reg. II-2/59.1.9 for the secondary pressure/vacuum relief. From the safety view point, system designer should take note of Reg. II-2/59.1.9 when designing the secondary pressure/vacuum relief arrangement; and
- v) Pressure/vacuum-breaking device installed on the inert gas main can be considered as a secondary pressure/vacuum relief of Reg. II-2/59.1.2.3 provided that the pressure/vacuum-breaking device is of the full flow relief type and with proper setting.

5. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships should ensure that the requirement of Reg. II-2/59.1.2.3 and other applicable requirements in Resolution MSC.57(67) are complied with for their ships.

6. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Notice No. 22/1998.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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