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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Effect of European Union's regulation EC 2037/2000 to decommission halon fire protection systems and fire extinguishers by 31 December 2003

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to provide information regarding the European Community's regulation EC 2037/2000 on "Substances that deplete the ozone layer" and its effects to ships still using halon fire protection systems and fire extinguishers on board. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 19/2003.

1. At the 77th session of the Maritime Safety Committee in 2003, the European Commission submitted a document (MSC77/11/1) to remind the Committee of the environmental impact of halons and informed the Committee of the European Community's regulation EC2037/2000 (the EC regulation) on "Substances that deplete the ozone layer", which entered into force in October 2000.
2. The document also informed that the EC regulation requires all halon fire protection systems and fire extinguishers, except those uses listed in Annex VII of the regulation, to be decommissioned before 31 December 2003. Although this requirement is only applicable to EU-flagged ships, other vessels may be affected by this EC regulation as servicing and maintenance provisions for halon fire extinguishing appliances may not be available in EU ports after 31 December 2003.
3. The document MSC77/11/1 can be found as attachments to this Note on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>). The details of the EC regulation EC 2037/2000 can be found from the website: <http://www.europa.eu.int>.

4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are advised to pay special attention to the ban on the use of halon by the European Community.

5. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 19/2003.

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