



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Use Of Smoke Helmet-Type Breathing Apparatus

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO circular MSC/Circ.1085 regarding the problems and operational drawbacks/risks associated with the use of smoke helmet-type breathing apparatus. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 21/2003.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 77th session in 2003, approved a circular MSC/Circ.1085 to highlight the problems associated with the use of smoke helmet-type breathing apparatus (SHBA) and its operational drawbacks/risks.
2. The circular MSC/Circ.1085 can be found as attachments to this Note on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>).
3. As ships built before 1 July 2002 are still allowed to use SHBA, these ships are recommended to be provided with additional self-contained breathing apparatus to replace, or make redundant, existing SHBA that form part of the minimum fire-fighting equipment required.
4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are requested to note the circular MSC/Circ.1085 and act accordingly.
5. This Note supersedes Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 21/2003.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

18 September 2012