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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Unified Interpretation of the SOLAS Convention and the IBC and IGC Codes

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate the unified interpretation of the SOLAS Convention and the IBC and IGC Codes in providing guidance on the uniform application of the requirements for the location of entrances, air inlets and openings in the superstructures and/or deckhouses of oil and chemical tankers and gas carriers.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 92nd session in June 2013, approved the unified interpretation of the SOLAS Convention and the IBC and IGC Codes. This unified interpretation aims at providing guidance on the uniform application of the requirements for the location of entrances, air inlets and openings in the superstructures and/or deckhouses of oil and chemical tankers and gas carriers.
2. The details of this unified interpretation as set out in IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1459 can be found in the attachment to this Note on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>).
3. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are required to use this unified interpretation as guidance on the application of the relevant requirements of the SOLAS Convention and the IBC and IGC Codes.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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