



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Clarification on the Applicability Issue relating to IMO Resolution MSC.338(91) regarding the Code on Noise Levels On Board Ships

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to clarify the applicability issue relating to IMO resolution MSC.338(91) on the adoption of amendments to the “International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended” (SOLAS) regarding the Code on noise levels on board ships for applicable Hong Kong registered ships of 1,600 gross tonnage and above.

1. In connection with the Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note No. 2/2014 issued on 2 January 2014 relating to IMO Resolution MSC.338(91) on the adoption of amendments to SOLAS regarding the Code on noise levels on board ships as stipulated in SOLAS chapter II-1, Reg. 3-12, this Note serves to clarify the applicability issue for applicable Hong Kong registered ships of 1,600 gross tonnage and above as follows:-

- (i) According to IMO Maritime Safety Committee Circular (i.e. MSC.1/Circ.1371 issued on 30 July 2010), the IMO Assembly Resolution A.468(XII) - “Code on Noise Levels on Board Ships” is a non-mandatory instrument. As such, the requirements in this Resolution, including noise survey report pursuant to Chapter 4 and the model format in Appendix 1 of Resolution A.468(XII) is not considered as a mandatory requirement for ships with keel laid on or after 1 September 1984 and before 1 January 2009. However, for these ships they should have followed the existing requirements as stipulated in SOLAS, Chapter II-1, Regulation 36, in which measures are required to be taken to reduce machinery noise in machinery spaces to acceptable levels, which are stipulated in paragraph 4.2.1. of A.468(XII).

- (ii) For ships:
 - (a) delivered before 1 July 2018 and fall within the scope of the SOLAS, Chapter II-1 Regulation 3-12.2.1 and 3-12.2.2; and
 - (b) noise level measurement not being carried out and noise survey report not available:

this Administration requires these ships to take measures to reduce machinery noise in machinery spaces to acceptable levels as specified in paragraph 4.2.1 of A.468(XII) and noise survey reports are to be made and should cover at least the requirements in paragraphs 2.8.3, 4.2.1, 4.3 and the model format in Appendix 1 of A.468(XII), not later than the first renewal survey of safety construction certificate on or after 1 July 2014, but before 1 July 2018 in all cases.

For ships delivered before 1 July 2014, noise survey report should include the ship's major particulars and the measuring data covering machinery spaces (i.e. control rooms, workshops, turbocharger, top propulsion machinery, auxiliary diesel engines/turbogenerators, reduction gear and non-specified workspaces).

- (iii) For ships which meet the conditions as prescribed in SOLAS, Chapter II-1, Regulations 3-12.1.1, 3-12.1.2 or 3-12.1.3, they are required to comply with the relevant requirements as stipulated in the IMO Resolution MSC.337(91) and SOLAS, Chapter II-1, Regulations 3-12.3 and 3-12.4.

2. This Administration considered that the party (such as shipyard / ship design consultant / specialist firm) who conducts the noise measurements and issue the noise survey report shall be acceptable to the ship's Recognized Organization. Moreover, noise survey report of a specific ship without actual noise measurements being conducted on board but only referring to the relevant measurements of their sister ships with identical construction and machinery arrangement is considered not acceptable.

3. The details of the codes as annexed to IMO resolutions A.468(XII), MSC.337(91) and the relevant SOLAS amendments MSC.338(91) can be found on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachments to this Note. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are required to note the applicability issue contained in this Note and act accordingly.

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