



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Amendments to the BCH Code and the IBC Code

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO resolutions MEPC.249(66) and MEPC.250(66) and to advise the parties concerned of the amendments to the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code) and the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) respectively. The amendments are expected to be entered into force on 1 January 2016.

1. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its 66th session in April 2014 adopted, by resolutions MEPC.249(66) and MEPC.250(66), the amendments to the BCH Code and IBC Code respectively. The two amendments are expected to be entered into force on 1 January 2016.
2. The amendments to the BCH Code require all ships, subject to the BCH Code, shall be fitted with an approved stability instrument capable of verifying compliance with the relevant intact and damage stability requirements.
3. The amendments to the IBC Code are related to Chapters 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17 and the Certificate of Fitness of the IBC Code. It is required that all ships, subject to the IBC Code, shall be fitted with an approved stability instrument capable of verifying compliance with the relevant intact and damage stability requirements. The changes also include cargo tank venting and gas-freeing arrangements due to amendments in SOLAS regulations in relation to inert gas systems.
4. The details of the amendments to the BCH Code and the IBC Code annexed to IMO resolutions MEPC.249(66) and MEPC.250(66) can be found on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachment to this Note. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are required to take note of these amendments and act accordingly.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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