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## Guidance on the Zika Virus Disease Situation Report Issued by WHO

*To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Officers and Crew*

### *Summary*

This Note is to provide guidance on the Zika virus disease situation report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO).

1. An Emergency Committee was convened by the World Health Organization's Director-General under the International Health Regulations (2005) on 1 February 2016. Following the advice of the Committee, the Director-General announced the recent cluster of microcephaly and other neurologic disorders reported in Brazil to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Globally, Zika virus infection has been emerging and outbreaks have been recorded in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. Ongoing transmission of Zika virus has expanded rapidly in the Americas since 2015.
2. On 8 February 2016, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued Circular Letter No. 3623 containing guidance on the Zika situation report issued by the WHO. The circular letter can be found as attachment to this Note on the website of Marine Department (<http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>).
3. Information on the Zika virus disease outbreak can also be found at WHO public website: <http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/en/>. At present, the Emergency Committee has found no justification for restrictions on travel or trade. However, travellers to areas where Zika virus cases have been found are urged to protect themselves from mosquito bites. Pregnant women considering travel to affected areas may wish to consult their health-care provider prior to travel and after return.

4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, officers and crew of Hong Kong registered ships are requested to check the updated information from the above mentioned WHO website and adhere closely to the relevant IMO/WHO guidance available to avoid the Zika virus infection.

Marine Department  
Shipping Division

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