



## 香 港 商 船 資 訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

**Coming into Force of New and Amended Hong Kong Legislation**

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

***Summary***

The purpose of this Note is to draw the attention of the parties concerned to the coming into force of one (1) piece of new and two (2) pieces of amended Hong Kong legislation which implement the latest requirements of the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs) and the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

1. To implement the latest requirements of COLREGs and SOLAS adopted by IMO, the Secretary for Transport and Housing has made the following regulations under the Merchant Shipping (Safety) Ordinance (Cap.369) (the Ordinance) —

- (i) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Carriage of Cargoes) (Amendment) Regulation 2016;
- (ii) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (IMSBC Code) Regulation; and
- (iii) Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Signals of Distress and Prevention of Collisions) (Amendment) Regulation 2016.

2. A copy of the above mentioned regulations is attached to this information note as Annexes 1, 2, and 3. They could also be found in the following website of Marine Department: <http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>.

3. The amendment regulations in above 1(i) and 1(iii) will come into operation on 1 July 2016. As for the new regulation in above 1(ii), save for sections 6(1) and 7(2)(b) and (7) which will come into operation on 1 January 2017, the other provisions will come into operation on 1 July 2016. A brief introduction of the main contents of these regulations is in Annex 4 to this information note for easy reference.

4. Particular attentions should be paid to the amendments in above 1(i), where a new Section 3A is added to the Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Carriage of Cargoes) Regulation to incorporate the latest requirements of the SOLAS Chapter VI Regulation 2 which prohibit packed containers without verified gross weight to be loaded on board. Also, On 23 May 2016, after considered the concerns of member States, the IMO issued circular MSC.1/Circ.1548 (as enclosed in the Appendix to Annex 4 of this note) advising members to take practical and pragmatic measures to enforce the above-mentioned requirement in the initial 3-month period provided that the stability and safe operation of vessels are not affected.

5. Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Classification Societies and Shipbuilders are required to take note and comply with the requirements of these new and amended regulations.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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