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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Unified Interpretations relating to the Application of SOLAS Regulation II-1/3-6, As Amended, and the Revised Technical Provisions for Means of Access for Inspections (Resolution MSC.158(78))

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate the unified interpretation relating to the application of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-6, as amended, and the *Revised technical provisions for means of access for inspections* (resolution MSC.158(78)), with a view to ensuring a uniform approach towards the application of the amended SOLAS regulation II-1/3-6 as to the configuration of installing the adjacent sections of vertical ladder in implementing the safe means of access for inspection.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 96th session in May 2016, approved the unified interpretation of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-6, as amended, and the *Revised technical provisions for means of access for inspections* (“technical provisions”) as adopted by resolution MSC.158(78), with a view to ensuring a uniform approach towards the application of the amended SOLAS regulation II-1/3-6 incorporating paragraphs 3.13.2 and 3.13.6 of the technical provisions which set out proper arrangement of adjacent sections of vertical ladders through a linking platform whereby safe means of access for inspection can be enabled.
2. The details of the unified interpretation as annexed to IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1545 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, masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships should use the unified interpretation when applying the relevant provisions of SOLAS regulation II-1/3-6.

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