HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Shipowners Liability) Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order 2017

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators and Masters

Summary

The Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Shipowners Liability) Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 2) Order 2017 (‘the Amendment Order’) was gazetted on 6 October 2017. The legislative amendments serve to give effect to the latest amendments in limits of liability for maritime incidents pursuant to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976. The revised liability limits to be incorporated into Hong Kong legislation shall come into operation on 4 December 2017.

1. The Amendment Order is made under section 28 of the Merchant Shipping (Limitation of Shipowners Liability) Ordinance (Cap. 434) to incorporate the latest liability limits applicable to claims of maritime incidents in relevant Article 6 of Schedule 2 thereto. The Amendment Order was published in the Gazette on 6 October 2017 and shall come into operation on 4 December 2017.

2. A copy of the Amendment Order is attached to this Note. It could also be found in the following website of Marine Department: http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html.

3. Upon the commencement of the Amendment Order, shipowners will be subjected to higher liability limits adopted by the International Maritime Organization by resolution LEG.5(99) for claims for loss of life or personal injury and other claims such as claims for property damage.

4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators and masters are advised to note the above.

Marine Department
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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