Interim Recommendations for Carriage of Liquefied Hydrogen in Bulk

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO resolution MSC.420(97) to advise the parties concerned of the Interim Recommendations for Carriage of Liquefied Hydrogen in Bulk (the ‘Interim Recommendations’). The Interim Recommendations are intended to facilitate establishment of a tripartite agreement for a pilot ship, which will be developed for the research and demonstration of safe long-distance overseas carriage of liquefied hydrogen in bulk.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the resolution MSC.420(97) on 25 November 2016 bringing in the Interim Recommendations for Carriage of Liquefied Hydrogen in Bulk (the ‘Interim Recommendations’), with a view to providing the basis for the future minimum requirements for the carriage of this cargo under applicable provisions of the IGC Code.

2. The Interim Recommendations set out general requirements and special requirements in the IGC Code for the carriage of liquefied hydrogen in bulk by ship, including the provision of portable hydrogen detector for each crew member working in the cargo area; selection of fire detectors for detecting hydrogen fire; and appropriate safety measures to prevent formation of an explosive mixture in the case of a leakage of hydrogen.

3. The details of the Interim Recommendations as annexed to IMO resolution MSC.420(97) can be found on the website of Marine Department (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html) as attachment to this Note.

4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are reminded to note the above.

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12 December 2017