Amendments to the 1994 HSC Code and the 2000 HSC Code

To: Hong Kong High-speed Craft Operators, Classification Societies and Shipbuilders

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO resolutions MSC. 423(98) and MSC. 424(98) to advise the parties concerned of the amendments to the 1994 HSC Code and the 2000 HSC Code respectively.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 98th session, adopted the Resolutions MSC. 423(98) and MSC. 424(98) on 15 June 2017 to amend the 1994 HSC Code and the 2000 HSC Code respectively. The amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2020.

2. Resolutions MSC. 423(98) and MSC. 424(98) introduce amendments to paragraphs 8.10.1.5 and 8.10.1.6 (Life-saving appliances and arrangements – Survival craft and rescue boats) of respective 1994 HSC Code and the 2000 HSC Code. The amendments serve to exempt high-speed craft of less than 20 m (1994 HSC Code) and 30 m (2000 HSC Code) in length, from carrying a rescue boat, provided that the arrangements are available to allow the craft to manoeuvre in the worst intended conditions to rescue a person from the water in a horizontal or near-horizontal body position and that the rescue can be observed from the craft’s navigating bridge.

3. The said IMO Resolutions MSC. 423(98) and MSC. 424(98) as attachments to this Note can be found on the webpage of Marine Department (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html).

4. Hong Kong high-speed craft operators, classification societies and shipbuilders are required to note the above amendments and act accordingly.

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