Amendments to the IBC Code and BCH Code

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned on the amendments to the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code) and the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code) by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the 72nd Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 72). The amendments are expected to be entered into force on 1 January 2020.

1. The MEPC 72 adopted the resolutions MEPC.302(72) and MEPC.303(72) on 13 April 2018 to amend the IBC Code and the BCH Code respectively.

2. The two resolutions amend the model form of respective certificates of fitness in the IBC Code and BCH Code, namely the International Certificate of Fitness and the Certificate of Fitness for the Carriage of Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk. The amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2020.

3. Copies of the aforementioned resolutions can be found on the website of Marine Department (https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html) as attachments to this Note.

4. Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies are advised to note the information provided in the documents and act accordingly.
5. Any enquiries in relation to this Merchant Shipping Information Note may be directed to the Senior Surveyor of the Maritime Policy Branch at telephone number 2852 4395 or by e-mail to “hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk”.

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