Amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) Regulation (Cap. 413P)

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to inform the parties concerned on the enactment of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2019 (the “Amendment Regulation”) to implement the amendments to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI) concerning the prohibition on the carriage of non-compliant fuel oil for combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board a ship. The Amendment Regulation will come into operation on 1 March 2020.

1. The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 73rd session, adopted Resolution MEPC.305(73) (the “Resolution”) on 26 October 2018 which stipulates that the sulphur content limits will apply not only to fuel oil used on board ships, but also to those carried for use on board ships.

2. The Amendment Regulation prohibits the carriage of non-compliant fuel oil (i.e. fuel oil with a sulphur content exceeding 0.5%) for combustion purposes for propulsion or operation on board a ship unless equivalents have been accepted by the Director. The Amendment Regulation will come into operation on 1 March 2020.

3. A copy of the Amendment Regulation can be found on the website of Marine Department (https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html) as attachment to this Note.

4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, masters and classification societies are informed to note the information 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”.

Marine Department
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