Implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Requirements

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

Summary
The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned on the enforcement of the Amendments to the subsidiary legislation under Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413) to implement the amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, V and VI concerning the use of electronic record books (ERB) on board ships and the application of energy efficiency design index (EEDI) to category A ships as defined in the Polar Code (e.g. cargo ships having ice-breaking capability). The Amendments will come into operation on 1 October 2020.

1. The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 74th session, adopted Resolutions MEPC.312(74), MEPC.314(74) and MEPC.316(74) on 17 May 2019 to amend MARPOL Annexes I, II, V and VI relating to the use of ERB and the EEDI regulations for category A ships as defined in the Polar Code.

2. The latest MARPOL requirements are implemented under the following subsidiary legislation (the “Amendment Regulations”) of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413) —
   i) Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2020;
   ii) Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) (Amendment) Regulation 2020; and
   iii) Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulation 2020.

The use of ERB under MARPOL Annex II has been addressed by the existing Merchant Shipping (Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk) Regulations (Cap. 413B). The Amendment Regulations will come into operation on 1 October 2020.
3. A copy of the Amendment Regulations 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 and ship managers who intended to use ERB as an alternative to the hard copy record books under the MARPOL on or after 1 October 2020 must apply the ERB approval from the Director or the ship’s recognized organization.

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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