

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 67 OF 2014

(Navigational Warnings and Related Information)

Typhoon Season

Owners, agents and charterers are requested to remind their ship masters of the need to take precautionary measures during the approach of tropical cyclones.

2. Masters, owners, agents and persons in control of vessels are also reminded of their obligation to comply with any direction issued by the Director of Marine concerning the safe operation of vessels and the port, or in relation to any matter which the Director may give directions under the Laws of Hong Kong.

3. When a tropical cyclone warning is issued by the Hong Kong Observatory, every vessel which is moored to the following government mooring buoys shall clear anchors and cables and prepare the main propulsion machinery to full power condition and such vessel shall, if so directed by the Director, leave the mooring buoy:-

“A” mooring
A17, A29, A35,
A39, A43,

“B” mooring
B2, B3, B4

Other details of government mooring buoys can be obtained at Marine Department’s website (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/moor.html).

4. The master of a ship moored to a government mooring buoy may, at his discretion, drop a bower anchor under foot to lessen the tendency to sheer. This should not impair the efficiency of the mooring, although an anchor should not be used during normal weather conditions.

5. Masters are reminded that every vessel within the waters of Hong Kong must maintain a continuous listening watch on the VHF radio channel appropriate to the VHF sector in which the vessel is located, or another VHF channel as may be specified by the Vessel Traffic Centre (call sign “MARDEP”). The Centre will broadcast tropical cyclone information from time to time when the tropical cyclone

warning signals have been issued. Masters should also listen to local radio broadcasts for weather advisory information bulletins.

6. An inadequately manned vessel during the passage of a tropical cyclone not only places herself at risk but also endangers the port and other vessels. The attention of masters, owners, agents, and charterers of vessels is therefore drawn to Regulation 26(1) of the Shipping and Port Control Regulations, Cap. 313A, which states that:-

“A ship shall, while within the waters of Hong Kong, have on board at all times such number of crew as is, in the opinion of the Director, qualified and capable of carrying out all duties which may reasonably be required to ensure the safety of the ship having regard to the circumstances pertaining thereto.”

Further information on minimum safe manning levels on ships while in the waters of Hong Kong can be found in Marine Department website (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/proc.html).

7. This Notice supersedes Marine Department Notice No. 63 of 2013.

Michael W. L. WONG
Director of Marine

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

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