Enforcement of Amendments to the subsidiary legislation under Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413) for the Use of Electronic Record Books (ERB) on board ships under MARPOL

This Notice informs the shipping industry that Amendments to the following subsidiary legislation (the “Amendment Regulations”) under the Merchant Shipping (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Ordinance (Cap. 413) will come into operation on 1 October 2020 -

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.

2. Details of the Amendment Regulations are available on the following websites -

3. The Amendment Regulations give effect to the latest amendments made to Annexes I, II, V and VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), 1973 under Resolutions MEPC.312(74), MEPC.314(74) and MEPC.316(74) as accepted by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization on 17 May 2019.

4. The aforementioned amendments will permit ships currently using traditional hard copy record books (Oil Record Book, Cargo Record Book, Garbage Record Book and Ozone Depleting Substances Record Book) to use the ERB as an alternative on or after 1 October 2020. All ERB must be approved by the Director or recognized organizations. The use of ERB under MARPOL Annex II has been addressed by the existing Merchant Shipping

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5. Masters, coxswains, owners/operators of ships intended to use ERB as alternative of hard copy record books under the MARPOL on or after 1 October 2020 are required to observe and comply with the Amendment Regulations. For enquiries, please contact the Senior Surveyor of Ships / Maritime Policy at telephone number 2852 4395 or by e-mail to “hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk”.

Agnes WONG
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
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