

HONG KONG MARITIME 香港海事通訊 NEWS



HK register launches pre-registration QC system in July



Following consultations with the industry, the Hong Kong Shipping Register (HKSR) launched a pre-registration quality control (QC) system in July, Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu said.

This move, he said, would boost the quality of HKSR registered vessels as well as guard the registry's reputation.

"If a new ship joins our register, theoretically it should be of good quality. However, as some ships join our register from other registers, we want to make sure of their quality before allowing them to fly the Hong Kong flag," Mr Tsui said.

In the past, there have been cases of ships not meeting the required standards, although they had been supposedly checked by classification societies.

Mr Tsui said if any such case was discovered in the future, the classification society surveyor responsible for inspecting the vessel may be "blacklisted", an exercise that has been practised before.

Under this pre-registration QC system, if there is doubt about the quality standards of the ship, a shipowner will

bear the costs of conducting a ship inspection by Marine Department before registration, he said, adding that the industry had agreed to this move to maintain the high quality standards of the HKSR.

The HKSR had a total of 835 vessels of gross tonnage (GT) 18.67 million as at September 9, 2003, compared to 726 vessels of 15.72 million GT a year ago.

The department's target forecast for the HKSR is 19 million GT by the end of 2003.

Ceremony to mark opening of CT9's first new berth



Photo courtesy of Hutchison Port Holdings

▲ Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu (third from left), Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Stephen Ip (fourth from left), and Hutchison Port Holdings group managing director John Meredith (fifth from left), at the opening ceremony of the first berth of Container Terminal 9.

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Ship Safety Branch successfully obtains ISO certification



The Ship Safety Branch (SSB) of Shipping Division (SD) has passed its initial certification assessment for issuance of an ISO 9001 certificate in its first attempt on August 1, 2003.

The external certification body, BSI have recommended that an ISO 9001 certificate be issued to the Branch.

General Manager of the Branch (GM/SSB) Lee Wai-kuen, who is also the Management Representative for the Quality Management System (QMS)

established within the Branch, said the adoption of a QMS is a strategic decision of SSB aimed at meeting customer needs and enhancing customer satisfaction.

He further added that the IMO is in the process of establishing a flag state audit scheme, which although is voluntary in the beginning, will eventually become mandatory for every flag state.

SSB first mooted the idea of having a Quality System back in 1999, but had deferred implementation because of the

restructuring and streamlining of the Hong Kong Shipping Register.

Mr Lee praised the SSB staff for establishing the QMS by themselves without any assistance from management consultants.

Separately, the Seafarers' Certification Section of the department's Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch (SRSB) was ISO 9001 certified by Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) in March 1997 to provide examination and certification services to seafarers serving on board foreign-going and river trade vessels.

The Shipping Register and Mercantile Marine Office (SRMM), which is under the same Branch, has made a move in August this year to align existing systems to those of the ISO 9001:2000 certification and hoped that the SRMM will also be ISO 9001:2000 certified by the end of the year. The new ISO 9001:2000 certification will also be extended to cover provision of examination and certification services to local vessels. The HKQAA has been appointed to carry out the audit of the Branch.

If successful, the ISO 9001 certification of both sections will be combined and issued to the SRSB by the end of this year.



◀ *HKQAA, which has joined the world's biggest international certification network IQNet, has jointly renewed the Seafarers' Certification Section's ISO 9001 with a new-look certificate this year.*

Macau delegation on HKSR familiarization visit



A Macau delegation, comprising representatives from the Macau Maritime Administration, the Commerce and Movable Registry and the Legal Affairs Bureau, visited the Marine Department on August 22 for a familiarization of Hong Kong Shipping Register's system and operations. The delegation was warmly received by the Mr Suresh Anand, Assistant Director/Shipping and Mr So Ping-chi, General Manager of the Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch.



◀ The Assistant Director/Shipping, Suresh Anand (middle), welcomed the party and presented a plaque to Registrar of the Macau Commerce and Movable Registry, Ms Virginia Tam Pui-man (first from left) and the Chief of Department of Licensing and Registry of the Macau Maritime Administration, Jesse Lei Veng Seng,



▲ General Manager of the Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch So Ping-chi (standing second from left) and members of the Macau delegation posed for a photo during the visit.


Naming ceremony of m.t. "Sea Fortune" at Nantong Shipyard



One of major Chinese shipowners in the Dalian area, Sea Fortune Shipping (S) Pte Ltd, held a naming ceremony for its 300,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT) very large crude carrier (VLCC) "Sea Fortune" at the shipyard of Nantong Cosco KHI Ship Engineering Cooperation Ltd on September 10.

Mr So Ping-chi, General Manager of the Shipping Registry and Seafarers' Branch, attended the ceremony.

Department of Health gets new vessel replacement

 A new 19-metre vessel named "Port Health", which was commissioned by the Marine Department for the Department of Health, was delivered to the Government Dockyard recently.

"The new vessel will be used for enforcing quarantine laws, transporting

port health officers and patients from ocean-going ships as well as providing emergency medical assistance in Hong Kong waters," said Mr. Wong Chi-kin, Marine Department's Senior Surveyor/Government New Construction.

"Port Health" will replace the glass reinforced plastics (GRP) vessel "Port

Health 4" that has served the Department of Health for 16 years.

The new vessel is more robust, powerful and better equipped than its predecessor. It features a steel hull and aluminium deckhouse for nine passengers and three crew members.

The deckhouse comprises a consultation room, passenger cabin and raised wheelhouse, while crew space with toilet and pantry facilities is provided under the wheelhouse. All accommodation has been installed with air-conditioning.


"Port Health" is powered by two 492kW Cummins engines which achieved a trial speed of over 15 knots. Two alternate generator sets are fitted for 30 kW electrical outputs.

The wheelhouse console is equipped with comprehensive electronics including a marine radar, e-chart, DGPS magnetic compass, echo sounder, VHF communications and loudhailer / siren system.



◀ Department of Health gets new vessel replacement.

"CSK Fortune" naming ceremony held in Shanghai

 Tai Chong Cheang Steamship Company (Hong Kong), representative of the shipowner Fortune Navigation Company Ltd, held a naming ceremony for the bulk carrier "CSK Fortune" in Shanghai on June 25, 2003.

The vessel, whose keel was laid on

March 6, 2002 at the Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Company, is of 280 metres length, 45 metres breadth and has a depth of 24.5 metres.

The ship, which is of 88,586 gross tonnage and is of 58,086 net tonnage, has been placed on the Hong Kong Shipping Register.



► Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu (first on right), Managing Director of HSBC Shipping Services Ltd. Russell Shields (second on right), and two other VIPs who attended the naming ceremony of the CSK Fortune in Shanghai.



▲ Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Stephen Ip delivering a speech at the naming ceremony of the CSK Fortune in Shanghai.

Hydrographic Office launches Hong Kong ENC



On 18 July, the Hydrographic Office of Marine Department chalked a new milestone with the launch of the Hong Kong ENC (Electronic Navigational Chart).

Mr C.K. Yeung, Deputy Hydrographer of the Hong Kong Hydrographic Office, said when mariners used the Hong Kong

ENC in conjunction with DGPS (Differential Global Positioning Service) on an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS), they could obtain accurate real-time ship position display as well as early grounding and collision warnings.

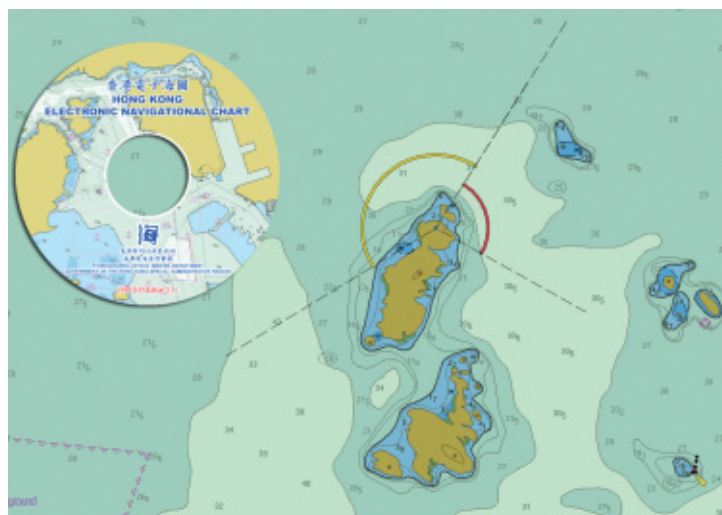
"The Hong Kong ENC, which is

compiled in line with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) S-57 edition 3.1 standard, is a digital database containing hydrographic chart information necessary for safe navigation," he said.

Nowadays, more ships are being equipped with ECDIS, which is an advance navigation tool that uses both chart and sensor information to continuously display a vessel's position in relation to land, charted object and submerge dangers.

Mr Yeung said as the Hong Kong ENC covers the entire Hong Kong waters and their approaches, it contains much more hydrographic information than an ordinary paper chart.

The Hong Kong ENC can be purchased from the Marine Department at a cost of HK\$860. To update the ENC, users can download the correction from the HKHO web-site at <http://www.hydro.gov.hk>.



◀ Hydrographic Office launches Hong Kong ENC.

Fatigue Study on High Speed Craft Officers



A new fatigue study on high speed craft (HSC) officers commissioned by the Marine Department has been successfully completed with the aid of HSC operators and unions.

According to the study of all types of HSC plying routes to Macau, Pearl River ports in the Mainland as well as within Hong Kong waters, there is scope for simplification and variation of working hour limitations stipulated in the

current permits.

In the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's final report of the study released in May, it has recommended work patterns including maximum number of consecutive work days, rest periods between voyages and rest days between consecutive work days.

These are now under discussion with operators and seafarer unions so that work patterns acceptable to all parties without compromising safety of operations and occupational health of the operating officers can be arrived at and implemented in the near future.

A steering group, comprising companies operating HSC from Hong Kong and seafarer unions, chaired by the General Manager/Shipping Registry & Seafarers' Branch So Ping-chi supervised the study.

The study, aimed to validate working hours stipulated in current operating permits that are based on a previous 1982 fatigue study, and to propose more flexible work patterns taking into account latest developments including new technologies, route patterns and traffic conditions.



▲ An officer of a high speed craft undergoing an on-site fatigue measurement.

Shipmasters fined for pre-arrival notification offence



Shipmasters of four Chinese mainland vessels were fined \$500 each by a Hong Kong Court for failing to submit Pre-arrival Notification (PAN) to the Marine Department.

The shipmasters were held following a joint operation between the Marine Department, Marine Police and Immigration Department on June 17 in Victoria Harbour. Twenty-seven vessels transiting Hong Kong waters were intercepted in the operation, including the four that had not submitted PAN.

Senior Marine Officer/Harbour Patrol Section Joseph Tsang said under the Shipping and Port Control (Amendment) Regulation 2002, vessels intending to enter Hong Kong waters should

tender PAN to the Marine Department not less than 24 hours before their entry.

"Failing to do so, the owner and master of the vessel commit an offence and each of them is liable to a maximum fine of \$40,000," he said.

Mr Tsang said information provided in PAN, which includes useful data relating

to the vessel covering its name and call sign; dimension and gross tonnage; crew members; purpose of call and last port of call; vessel defects; quantities and categories of dangerous goods on board, would enable the department to have better navigational safety control.

Such data will also enable the respective departments to devise an effective action plan in case of marine accidents.

"In the past, vessels of over 300 tonnes were required to submit PAN. But the requirement has been extended to cover all vessels since November last year except those with exemptions such as ferries plying within river trade limits," Mr Tsang said.



▲ The Marine Department carried out a joint operation in June with the Marine Police and Immigration Department in the Victoria Harbour to intercept vessels that failed to submit Pre-arrival Notification.

HK/Guangdong MSA hold ninth regular meeting in Guangzhou



The Hong Kong Marine Department and Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration (GDMSA) held their ninth regular meeting in Guangzhou from June 21-23, 2003.

The Hong Kong delegation, led by the Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu, discussed several marine safety and

operational issues with Mr. Wang Xiang Tao, the Director General of GDMSA, and his colleagues.

During the three-day meeting, 15 topics were covered, including issues on Pearl River Delta Navigational Channel Traffic Separation Scheme, double registrations of vessels, and joint efforts

in marine casualty investigation.

The Hong Kong delegation had also visited the Training Centre of the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration under the Ministry of Communications.



▲ Hong Kong Marine Department and Guangdong MSA officials pose for a group photo after their ninth regular meeting.

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Ceremony to mark opening of CT9's first new berth



Director of Marine Tsui Shung-yiu was among the VIPs who attended the official opening of the first new berth at Container Terminal 9 at Kwai Chung on July 22, 2003.

Secretary for Economic Development and Labour Stephen Ip, who officiated at the ceremony, said Hong Kong port's container throughput was expected to

exceed the 20 million TEU mark this year.

He said Hong Kong's position as a leading transport and logistics hub would be further strengthened as the work to complete CT9's remaining five berths by 2005 and construction of the Shenzhen Western Corridor and a mirror bridge at Lok Ma Chau moves in full swing.

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