

Electrical blackout and subsequent grounding of the Iranian registered container ship “Touska” at the Magazine Island, Hong Kong on 5 November 2017

1. The incident

- 1.1 At about 2114 hours on 5 November 2017, the Iranian registered container “*Touska*” (*the vessel*) ran aground at the Magazine Island, Hong Kong.
- 1.2 *The vessel* departed Kaohsiung, Taiwan for Shenzhen, China at 1706 hours on 3 November 2017. On 5 November 2017 afternoon, *the vessel* anchored outside Hong Kong waters due to unavailability of berth in Shenzhen.
- 1.3 At 2100 hours on 5 November 2017, *the vessel* en route to Shenzhen again. Whilst in transit in Hong Kong waters at 2109 hours, a blackout happened on board that affected the maneuverability of *the vessel*. Although both port and starboard anchors were let go, *the vessel* finally went aground just off the Magazine Island at 2114 hours.
- 1.4 The investigation had revealed that the automatic backflushing filter, which was used to screen out dirty particles from the fuel oil, failed to supply fuel oil to the generator engines. Thus, it caused the blackout and subsequent grounding of *the vessel*.

2. Lessons learnt

- 2.1 Monitor closely the performance and function of the automatic backflushing filter especially during sailing in the harbour and congested waters etc.
- 2.2 Carry out proper preventive maintenance of the automatic backflushing filter and other equipment of the heavy fuel oil system of the generators in order to avoid any sudden failure of the equipment.