

Information Paper

Hong Kong Fleet Operation Advisory Committee Green Vessels Registration Incentive Scheme and application procedures

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members of the Green Vessels Registration Incentive Scheme (“the Scheme”) and its application procedures.

Background

2. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSARG”) promulgated the Action Plan on Green Maritime Fuel Bunkering¹ in November 2024, setting out five clear strategies and ten actions to promote the development of Hong Kong into a high-quality green maritime fuel bunkering centre. One of the action measures is to subsidise green transformation of vessels.

3. Propelled by this initiative, the Marine Department (“MD”) proposed two schemes to the Government which were included in the Government’s 2026-27 Budget involving around HK\$34 million in funding. One of them is the Green Vessels Registration Incentive Scheme, which aims to provide incentives to Hong Kong-registered vessels that use green maritime fuel as their primary propulsion fuel.

4. The Scheme is in line with the IMO’s strategy to reduce greenhouse emissions from international shipping, it also aims to accelerate the green transition of Hong Kong’s fleet, attract new registrations and retain green fuel-powered vessels to register in Hong Kong. Details of the Scheme and the application procedures are outlined in the ensuing paragraphs.

The Scheme

5. All Hong Kong-registered vessels, regardless of new registrations or

¹ https://www.tlb.gov.hk/doc/Action_Plan_on_Green_Maritime_Fuel_Bunkering.pdf

existing vessels, are eligible to receive an incentive of HK\$60,000 when meeting the following conditions –

- (a) Hong Kong-registered ship with IMO number;
- (b) Use eligible green maritime fuel as main propulsion fuel. Eligible green maritime fuels include Liquefied natural gas (“LNG”), methanol, ammonia, hydrogen, etc., but excluding conventional fuels and biofuels; and
- (c) Submit annual supporting documents (i.e. bunker delivery notes of eligible fuels and the associated fuel consumption records)

Application and payment arrangements

6. The application period for the Scheme will run for three years, commencing Q2 2026 and the commencement date will be announced in press release. The application form together with the Guidance Notes to facilitate easier understanding of the Scheme are enclosed at **Annex 1 and 2**. Please find below some important remarks for attention when applying for the Scheme:

- (a) The applicant can be the shipowner, demise charterer, representative person, ship management company or ship agent, etc. The applicant should be authorized to make application on behalf of the shipowner or demise charterer.
- (b) The payee who receives the incentive should be the shipowner as shown in the valid Certificate of Registry (“COR”). In the case for ships under Demise Charter Registration, the payee should be the Demise Charterer as shown in the COR. A payee other than the shipowner or demise charterer may be considered acceptable only with strong reasons supported by document, such as a clear presence of organization and linkage between the payee and shipowner / demise charterer, and/or authorization from shipowner / demise charterer, etc.
- (c) For ships with joint ownership, the other owners’ consent should be provided for the application submission and the payee appointed for receiving the incentive.
- (d) An incentive of HK\$60,000 will be granted for successful

application each year. A total amount of up to HK\$180,000 will be granted to a ship for successful applications throughout the three-year period.

- (e) Depending on the actual situation, it is expected that vetting and approval of an application will normally take around three months. The eligible Hong Kong-registered ship must remain her registration with the Hong Kong Shipping Registry (“HKSR”) on the date the incentive is granted.
- (f) HKSR reserves the final right to determine whether an application is eligible.

Way Forward

7. Members are invited to note the new incentive scheme as set out above.

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Hong Kong Shipping Registry
Marine Department

Encls.

Annex 1 – Application Form

Annex 2 – Guidance Notes to the Application Form