

Hong Kong Fleet Operation Advisory Committee

**Strengthening the dissemination of information through
Merchant Shipping Information Notes**

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform Members that all information, guidelines, operational matters, and mandatory legal requirements (“Information”) concerning matters for Hong Kong-registered ships (“HK Ships”) plying outside of Hong Kong waters will continue to be published through a single centralized channel, the Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Notes (“MSINs”), in order to optimize the efficiency of information dissemination.

Background

2. Marine Department (“MD”) is committed to improving the efficiency of disseminating reliable information to shipowners, their managers and operators. To this end, MD has established a dedicated MSIN distribution channel. Circular Letters, on the other hand, have been used to promulgate temporary regional or local information and supplementary operational updates provided by other Administrations, enabling HK Ships that intend to enter or already in the relevant areas to take more timely action.

3. In order to enhance clarity in the dissemination of Information, a review has been conducted. As a result, MD will streamline the process into a single centralized MSIN dissemination arrangement. This will facilitate the management of a single sequential reference for all necessary information.

Strengthening the single centralized MSIN Dissemination Arrangement

4. MSINs will remain the most convenient and single centralized channel for Information dissemination. Where regional or local information and supplemental operational updates requiring immediate attention or response from shipowners, their managers and operators of HK Ships will also be contacted directly through relevant contact points via email or telephone where applicable. In this connection, Circular

Letters will cease to be issued.

5. In conjunction with this strengthened dissemination arrangement, shipowners, their managers and operators of HK Ships can also directly seek the latest clarification and information from MD through their respective contact points via email or telephone. This ensures that shipowners, their managers and operators of HK Ships can easily access the latest Information via MSINs and receive direct response from MD.

Way Forward

6. Members are invited to note the new arrangement as set out above.

28 May 2026
Shipping Division
Marine Department