

Pilotage Advisory Committee

Information on Cooperation in Mirs Bay Pilotage Services

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to inform members of the cooperation arrangement between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) and the Shenzhen Transport Bureau (STB) of the Shenzhen Municipal Government for the provision of pilotage services in Mirs Bay.

Background

2. Ocean-going vessels plying to or from Yantian Port are subjected to compulsory pilotage from Shenzhen and Hong Kong respectively. For the safety of pilots, vessels when navigating in Mirs Bay have to slow down twice with additional manoeuvres in order to provide a lee for boarding/disembarking of both Shenzhen and Hong Kong pilots. In order to enhance operational safety and efficiency, the HKSARG and STB have engaged in discussions since August 2018 to explore ways to enhance safe navigation and efficient operation in the waters of Mirs Bay. Pilotage service providers¹ have also been engaged in the discussions.

Implementation of the cooperation arrangement

3. In 2021, HKSARG and STB have reached a consensus that under the cooperation arrangement, the pilotage service from the berth at Yantian terminals to Shek Ngau Chau or vice versa will be provided by a single licensed pilot either from the Hong Kong Pilots Association Ltd or Shenzhen Pilot Station. Such arrangement will only apply to ships that are subjected to compulsory pilotage in both Hong Kong and Shenzhen, including non-Chinese flagged ships of 3,000 GT and over, as well as ships of 1,000 GT and over carrying radio-active substances, gas carriers, dangerous goods in bulk and tankers. Pilotage

¹ The relevant service providers are the Hong Kong Pilots Association Ltd. and the Shenzhen Pilot Station.

arrangements for other ships which are not subjected to both sides' compulsory pilotage remains unchanged.

4. The Shenzhen Pilot Station will handle day-to-day operational matters including receiving pilot bookings; arranging job allocation on equal basis between Hong Kong and Shenzhen pilots; and collecting appropriate pilotage dues covering the fee charges under the Hong Kong Pilotage Ordinance (Cap.84).

5. With regard to the issue of Hong Kong pilot licences to Shenzhen pilots for the provision of pilotage services in Mirs Bay only, the Marine Department will process the applications in accordance with Cap.84. As at today, Shenzhen Pilot Station has submitted a total of 20 applications from Shenzhen pilots applying for Hong Kong pilot licenses. It is expected that their registration as apprentice pilots through interviews with members of this Committee will be arranged in early December 2021.

For information

6. Members are invited to note the above cooperation arrangement.

Pilotage Authority
Marine Department
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