

海 事 處
香港統一碼頭道 38 號
海港政府大樓
香港郵箱 4155 號



MARINE DEPARTMENT
HARBOUR BUILDING,
38 PIER ROAD,
G.P.O. BOX 4155
HONG KONG

網站 WEB: <http://www.mardep.gov.hk>
貴方檔號 YOUR REF.:
本處檔號 OUR REF.: SD/S 930/6
電話號碼 TEL. NO.: (852) 2852 4510
傳真號碼 FAX. NO.: (852) 2545 0556
電郵 E MAIL: ss_css@mardep.gov.hk

20 May 2009

To: Shipowners / Managers

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Concentrated Inspection Campaign
on Lifeboat Launching Arrangements
(1 September to 30 November 2009)**

Paris and Tokyo MOUs announced in April 2009 through a joint press release that a joint Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on lifeboat launching arrangements under SOLAS Chapter III – Life-saving appliances and arrangements will be conducted in the period from 1 September to 30 November 2009.

2. The purposes of the campaign are to ensure that lifeboats and their associated launching arrangements are well maintained and that crew are aware of the dangers of launching and recovering lifeboats.

3. This campaign will focus on 19 areas with respect to lifeboat launching arrangements, in particular “on-load” release mechanisms. Eleven (11) of them are considered critical that any non-compliance of which would result in ship detention. To facilitate masters of Hong Kong registered ships to prepare for this CIC exercise, the relevant guidelines are attached for reference (see Annex 1). In addition management companies and shipboard staff are advised to take the following actions before the campaign:

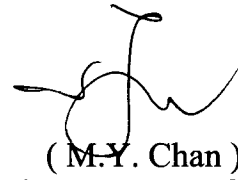
- (a) management companies should distribute this circular letter and guidelines to all Hong Kong ships in the company’s fleet to make sure that all shipboard staff are aware of the campaign and urge them to verify compliance with the requirements accordingly;
- (b) management companies or shipboard staff should carry out similar inspection to verify the compliance with the requirements of SOLAS chapter III prior to the commencement of the campaign, if practicable;
- (c) management companies should ensure that masters and senior officers onboard ship could communicate effectively with PSCOs, since poor communication shown to the PSCO during interview could lead to ship being detained.

4. During the CIC, PSCOs will apply a questionnaire listing a number of items to cover the campaign. The questionnaire will be published on the websites of Paris and Tokyo MOUs in the first week of August 2009.

5. May I reiterate that maintaining a good PSC record for the Hong Kong registered ships is an on going task for all of us. Therefore, we should work closely and in co-operation to achieve the target.

6. If you have any questions, please contact Senior Surveyor / Cargo Ships Safety Section at telephone number (852) 2852 4510, fax number (852) 2545 0556 or email "ss_css@mardep.gov.hk".

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.Y. Chan', written in a cursive style.

(M.Y. Chan)
Senior Surveyor of Ships
Cargo Ships Safety Section
for Director of Marine

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