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28 March 2025

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Masters and Recognized Organizations

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe
and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 (HKC)**
Issuance of "Statement of Compliance" (SoC)

Please be advised that the HKC will enter into force internationally on 26 June 2025. The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) is currently preparing local legislation for the implementation of the HKC in the HKSAR.

Pursuant to Article 3.4 of the HKC, no more favorable treatment is given to the ships flying the flag of an administration that has not yet implemented the HKC. Therefore, HK registered ships (HK Ships) are required to comply with the provisions of the HKC when calling at ports of countries¹ that have implemented the HKC on and after 26 June 2025.

Before the HKC is implemented in the HKSAR, the owners of HK Ships may voluntarily request their Recognized Organizations to issue a SoC, together with this letter, to show to port States that their HK Ships are in compliance with the provisions of the HKC.

Pursuant to Regulation 5.2 of the HKC, existing ships shall have on board an Inventory of Hazardous Materials no later than 26 June 2030 (five years after the entry into force of the HKC) or before going for recycling if this is earlier. The initial and renewal survey of the HKC should be harmonized with the surveys required by other applicable statutory instruments of the IMO in accordance with Regulation 10.5 of HKC.

¹ Countries ratified the HKC as of issuance date of this letter are: Bangladesh, Belgium, Congo, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Sao Tome and Principe, Türkiye. The update list can be found in <https://gis.imo.org/Public/ST/Ratification.aspx?tid=74>

The SoC will be replaced with the International Certificate on Inventory of Hazardous Materials when the HKSAR has formally accepted the HKC.

For any queries related to the above arrangement on the issuance of the SoC, please feel free to contact the Senior Surveyor of Cargo Ships Safety Section at:

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Yours faithfully,

(H.F. YUE)

Senior Surveyor of Ships / Cargo Ships Safety
for Director of Marine