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25 July, 2008

To : *All Ship Managers and Recognized Classification Societies*

Dear Sirs,

PSC Detainable Deficiency related to Seafarer's Certificates

You may be aware that officers holding certificate of competency (COC) issued by authorities other than the Hong Kong Marine Department are allowed to serve onboard Hong Kong registered ships only if they hold relevant licenses issued by this Department. Such permission is exercised in accordance with Regulation I/10.5 of STCW 95 in respect of Recognition of Certificates

Several recent PSC detention cases of Hong Kong ships revealed that some holders of COC issued by other authorities were not holding valid Hong Kong licenses or documentary evidence that application for such licenses has been submitted to this Department.

I would like to draw your attention that under the Guidelines for the Detention of Ships in Appendix 1 of the Port State Control Procedures, in IMO resolution A.787(19), a seafarer on board a ship failing to hold a certificate, to have an appropriate certificate, to have a valid dispensation or to provide documentary proof that an application for an endorsement has been submitted to the Administration is considered as a ground for detention.

This Department thus reminds the personnel in charge of safety management system of companies or onboard ships that they should strictly follow the above

requirements. Please also note that should you have made applications for the license, copy of the acknowledge receipt of such application issued by this Department should be retained onboard for PSC officer's inspection and the validity of the acknowledgement only lasts for 3 months.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned at telephone (852) 2852 4510.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.W. Cheung', written in a cursive style.

(S.W. Cheung)
Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety
for Director of Marine

CSW/-

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