

海 事 處

船舶事務科

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MARINE DEPARTMENT

SHIPPING DIVISION

24/F, HARBOUR BUILDING  
38 PIER ROAD  
CENTRAL  
HONG KONG

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27 January 2026

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

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Maintenance of Portable Extinguishers**

Portable extinguishers are one of the essential firefighting equipment on board ships. In accordance with SOLAS II-2/14.2.1.2 and as amended from time to time, portable extinguishers shall be maintained in good working condition and readily available for immediate use, and any portable extinguishers which have been discharged shall be immediately recharged or replaced with an equivalent unit. Given the importance of portable extinguishers, non-compliance with the aforementioned requirements during port State Control (“PSC”) inspection may result in undue PSC intervention.

2. The maintenance, testing and inspection of portable extinguishers shall be carried out in accordance with the guidelines in IMO circular MSC.1/Circ.1432 which incorporates the IMO Resolution A.951(23), as amended from time to time,

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with due regard to ensuring their reliability.

3. Despite the fire extinguishing systems or appliances are annually serviced by a reputable service provider, the ship's manager or ship's staff remains responsible for ensuring that fire extinguishing systems and appliances are kept in good working condition.

4. Should you have any enquiries, questions, please feel free to contact Senior Surveyor of Cargo Ships Safety Section at:

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Yours faithfully,

*(No signature on website copy)*

(H.F. YUE)

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