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MARINE DEPARTMENT

SHIPPING DIVISION

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

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To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters, Officers, Crew and Recognized Organizations

Dear Sir / Madam,

Maintenance of Passenger Lifts onboard

Large passenger ships and cargo ships are often installed with passenger lift(s) for use by the passengers and/or crew. Lack of proper maintenance and regular inspections is one of the leading causes of fatal and serious shipboard accidents associated with passenger lifts.

2. The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) does not specify safety and maintenance requirements for passenger lifts installed on board ships. However, paragraph 19.17 and 19.18 of the “Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seafarers (2025 Edition,)”, and as amended from time to time, provided information and guidance on the general design, maintenance and testing of passenger lifts, which can be served as general reference. According to the Merchant Shipping

(Seafarers) (Code of Safe Working Practices) Regulation (Cap. 478M), this code shall be placed on Hong Kong-registered sea-going ships.

3. Furthermore, section 1.2.2 of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code stipulates that the safety management objectives of an ISM responsible company should, inter alia: provide for safe practices in ship operation and a safe working environment; assess all identified risks and establish safeguards as appropriate; and prepare for emergencies. In addition, section 10.1 of the ISM Code requires that an ISM responsible company should establish procedures to ensure that the ship is maintained in conformity with the provisions of the relevant rules and regulation and with any additional requirement which may be established by the company. All these and other relevant sections of the ISM Code should be considered in preparing the relevant maintenance and inspection/testing procedures for passenger lifts.

4. It is advised that Hong Kong-registered ships, if installed with passenger lifts, should establish maintenance and inspection/testing procedures, taking into account to the lift manufacturer's recommendations and/or requirements of the relevant classification society. If the maintenance, examination and testing of passenger lift installations require expertise not normally possessed by shipboard staff, such tasks should be performed by competent service personnel approved or recognized by the lift manufacturer.

5. When conducting an ISM audit on a Hong Kong-registered ship that has installed passenger lift, Recognized Organization auditor should ensure that maintenance and inspection/testing procedures have been incorporated into the ship's safety management system, and are effectively implemented on board.

6. Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact Senior Surveyor of Ships/Cargo Ships Safety at telephone number (852) 2852 4510 or by e-mail to ss_css@mardep.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website copy)

(H.F. YUE)
Senior Surveyor of Ships / Cargo Ships Safety
for Director of Marine