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27 May 2014

To: Shipowners / Ship Managers and Recognized Organization

Dear Sir/Madam,

## <u>International Safety Management (ISM) Code</u> <u>Clause 12.1 – Internal Audit</u>

We refer to the IMO circular MSC-MEPC 7/Circ.8 "Revised Guidelines For The Operational Implementation of The International Safety Management (ISM) Code By Companies". Section 7 of the circular states that "Companies should carry out internal shore-based and shipboard audit at interval not exceeding 12 months to verify whether shore-based and shipboard activities comply with SMS. In exceptional circumstances as documented by the Company, this period may be exceeded by not more than three months".

In order to keep in line with the aforesaid IMO circular, the question 9 of the current FAQ placed in our website regarding the interval of internal safety audit (<a href="http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\_services/pdf/ism\_faq.pdf">http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\_services/pdf/ism\_faq.pdf</a>) would then be deleted in order to avoid any ambiguity arisen.

Should you have any questions, please feel to contact us.

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Yours faithfully,

No signature on website copy

(S.H. Wan) Senior Surveyor/International Safety Management Section for Director of Marine

\* With effect from 1 April 2021, mms@mardep.gov.hk will be the only e-mail address for Marine Department to handle ISM and ISPS issues on Hong Kong registered ships. The previous e-mail addresses, ssism@mardep.gov.hk and sqa@mardep.gov.hk, will be discontinued.