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12 November 2012

To: Shipowners / Ship Managers and Classification Societies

Dear Sir/Madam,

**PSC Inspection on MARPOL ANNEX VI and
Updated information for QUALSHIP 21 Status**

Last week, a Hong Kong registered ship has been detained by USCG for not changing over to low sulphur fuel oil (LSFO) before entering North American Emission Control Area (ECA).

The North American Emission Control Area (ECA) under MARPOL VI entered into force on 1 August 2012. From that day, the sulphur content of the fuel oil used on board ships operating within the ECA should not exceed 1.00 percent m/m as per MARPOL Annex VI Regulation 14.4.2. The geographical limits of the North American ECA are set out in MEPC.1/Circ.723.

To avoid similar detention in US ports and other ECAs, you are reminded to instruct your ship masters on your fleet to ensure that all shipboard operation shall be closely monitored and strictly followed in accordance with local legislations and MARPOL requirements. It would be wise for you to consult your agents before entering any territories for specific local PSC, safety, pollution prevention and/or security requirements. You may also wish to visit and review the PSC deficiencies published by local port authorities, regional MOUs and MD's web (http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/pscinfo.html) to take all precautions and preventive measures to avoid detentions.

At present, Hong Kong is marginally enjoying QUALSHIP 21 status in 2012. Subsequent to this detention, Hong Kong is on the worse edge and may possible be removed from the list of QUALSHIP 21 in 2013 unless we have great improvement on PSC performance when Hong Kong registered ship visiting US.

We would reiterate that, maintaining a good record of HK flagged ships in PSC inspections requires continuous efforts of all stakeholders. We look forward continuous supports from all HK shipowners, management companies, classification societies and the masters in achieving our

common goal.

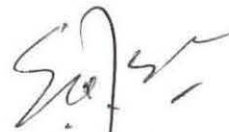
Should you have any questions, please feel to contact Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety Section at

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Yours faithfully,



(S.H. Tse)

Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety Section
for Director of Marine