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27 July 2020

To: All Masters of Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong Ship Managers,
Hong Kong Shipowners

Dear Sir/Madam,

Port State Detention of Hong Kong Registered Ships
Actions Required

Hong Kong Marine Department (MD) has been monitoring port State inspection results of Hong Kong registered ships (HK Ships) around the world. In 2020 up to today there are 29 ships detained by various port States and among them 12 in Australia (41%).

2. Upon reviewing the deficiencies, be it detainable deficiencies or not, we considered that with stepping up preparation before the ship entering port, chances of being detained and number of deficiencies recorded by the port State control officers can be reduced.

3. To assist HK ships to effectively prepare for PSC inspection, a PSC Inspection (Pre-arrival) Checklist (the Checklist) had been in place and shared among HK ships. To further enhance the Checklist, a statistical analysis of all deficiencies (including detainable deficiencies) issued in Australia from 2019 to 2020 has been conducted. The top 15 common deficiencies are identified. Such items are highlighted in red with asterisk in the latest version of the Checklist (July 2020).

4. We would like to draw your attention to Sections 2.3.6 and 2.3.7 of IMO Resolution A.1138(31) "Procedures for Port State Control 2019". All equipment is subject to failure and spares or replacement parts may not be readily available. In such cases prior to entering port, the authority of flag State and port State should be notified, safe alternative arrangements are made and plan to rectify the defects is drawn up. Such proactive actions will minimize the chances of ship being detained.

5. While MD may issue dispensations for equipment failure where considered justified, dispensations always come with a set of conditions in which one of them is to have the defect rectified at the first opportunity. Hence a plan to rectify the defect will certainly be requested by PSCO.

6. The Checklist will greatly help you to identify equipment failure. Please ensure to carry out thorough and genuine pre-arrival checks in accordance with the Checklist before your ship enters port.

7. Under the Flag State Quality Control (FSQC) system, based on ships' PSC performance and ports of call, MD will conduct special FSQC Audits (Pre-arrival) on board selected ships. Companies involved will be contacted separately.

8. Should you have any queries related to the Checklist, please do not hesitate to contact the Cargo Ships Safety Section as follows:

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Yours faithfully,

No signature on website copy

(C. L. Fong)
Senior Surveyor of Ships/
Cargo Ship Safety Section
for Director of Marine

Encl: PSC inspection (pre-arrival) checklist (July 2020)