

海事處

船舶事務科

香港 中環 統一碼頭道 38 號
海港政府大樓 24 樓

電話號碼：(852) 2852 4510
傳真號碼：(852) 2545 0556



MARINE DEPARTMENT

Shipping Division

24/F., Harbour Building,
38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

Tel No.: (852) 2852 4510
Fax No.: (852) 2545 0556

網站 Web Site: <https://www.mardep.gov.hk>
電郵地址 E-mail: ss_css@mardep.gov.hk
貴署檔案 Your Ref.: ---
本處檔案 Our Ref.: MD-CSS-F02-040-04A-001

3 February 2023

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Classification Societies and Masters of Hong Kong registered ships

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Port State Control (PSC) Detainable Deficiencies related to Discharge Nozzles of Fixed Fire-Fighting Systems

We would like to draw your attention about a recent PSC detention of a Hong Kong registered ship (HK Ship) by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The HK Ship was detained as a result of blockage of a number of the discharge nozzles which rendered the fixed fire-fighting system on board not readily available for immediate use.

2. There have also been reports in recent years that a number of ships were detained with PSC deficiencies regarding the malfunction of fixed fire-fighting systems, especially the defective / clogged discharge nozzles. Marine Department (MD) is greatly concerned about the working condition and operational readiness of the fixed fire-fighting systems on board HK Ships and would like to draw the attention of all parties concerned on the requirements of SOLAS Chapter II-2 Regulation 14.2.1.2 that fire-fighting systems and appliances shall be kept in good working order and readily available for immediate use.

3. Owners, managers and Masters of HK Ships are reminded to carry out onboard maintenance and inspections in accordance with the ship's maintenance plan, and to adopt the IMO Guidelines for the Maintenance and Inspection of Fire Protection Systems and Appliances, i.e. IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1432, as amended by MSC.1/Circ.1516.

4. Should any potential defects or malfunction of fixed fire-fighting systems be identified and cannot be rectified before entering any port, the ship's Master or the management company should promptly notify the port authority, the classification society and MD, as appropriate, in advance to avoid possible PSC intervention. Alternative arrangement and rectification plan for the defects shall be made without delay. Application for dispensation may be submitted by the management company should repair arrangement cannot be made due to lack of repair facilities or spare parts in the port.

5. To avoid undue PSC intervention on the operational readiness of HK Ships' fire-fighting systems and appliances, all masters and engineers are urged to conduct a thorough inspection for the fixed fire-fighting systems, including cleanliness of discharge nozzles, prior to calling ports not only in the US, but also in other countries and regions.

6. Should you have any queries related to PSC inspections for HK Ships, please do not hesitate to contact Senior Surveyor / Cargo Ships Safety Section by email at ss_css@mardep.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website copy)

(R. LIU)

Senior Surveyor of Ship / Cargo Ships Safety Section
Shipping Division
for Director of Marine

Encl.: Annex 1 - IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1432
Annex 2 - IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ.1516