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# MARINE DEPARTMENT

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26 June 2023

**To: Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Masters and Recognized Organizations of Hong Kong-Registered Ships**

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Port State Control (PSC) Detention of Hong Kong Registered Ships in Australia**

Recently, Hong Kong-registered ships (HK Ships) were detained in Australia due to PSC deficiencies related to the International Safety Management (ISM) Code. This circular letter serves the purpose to draw the special attention of shipowners, ship managers, ship masters and Recognized Organizations (ROs) of HK Ships to Appendix 8 of IMO Resolution A. 1155(32), the Guidelines for PSC officers on the ISM Code (the Guidelines).

2. Paragraph 7.3.1 of the Guidelines states that collective deficiencies of technical and/or operational nature provide objective evidence of a serious failure, or lack of effectiveness, of the implementation of the ISM Code and may result in PSC detention. As such, PSC officers have been instructed to assess whether technical and/or operational deficiencies are related to the implementation of the ISM Code, and relevant deficiencies should be marked as “ISM related” in the PSC inspection report.

3. Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has pointed out that PSC deficiency related to ISM Code is one of the most common deficiencies identified in Australia in the Hong Kong Marine Department’s (HKMD’s) Safety Seminar on 28 February 2023 ([https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/faq/pdf/safety\\_seminar\\_2023\\_feb.pdf](https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/faq/pdf/safety_seminar_2023_feb.pdf)).

4. In order to avoid further detentions of HK Ships in Australia due to PSC deficiencies related to ISM Code, all shipowners and ship managers of HK Ships are urged to carry out thorough and decent pre-arrival checks on technical and operational items in accordance with the Annex 1 (pre-arrival checklist) of this letter before calling ports in Australia.

5. As all equipment is subject to failure and spares or replacement parts may not be readily available, HKMD and port State should be notified prior to entering port, while safe alternative arrangements are made and plan to rectify the defects is drawn up. Such proactive actions will also minimize the chances of ship being detained.

6. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Cargo Ships Safety Section of the Marine Department (Email: [ss\\_css@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:ss_css@mardep.gov.hk))

Yours faithfully,

*(No signature on website)*

(R. LIU)  
Senior Surveyor of Ships/  
Cargo Ships Safety Section  
*for* Director of Marine