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30 November 2010

To: Shipowners / Ship Managers and Classification Societies

Dear Sir/Madam,

Updated Information for QUALSHIP21 Status

In order to upgrade the safety standards of Hong Kong registered ships and reduce the number of detentions by the USCG, a circular was issued on 14 July 2010 to require our ship owners/operators to use the checklist developed by the Marine Department (MD) to inspect their ships before entry of any US ports. The checklist should be completed by ship masters and subsequently be endorsed by the companies concerned before submission to this Department for following up. A circular providing updated PSC information and extending the aforementioned PSC measure to cover ships visiting Australian ports was subsequently issued on 7 October 2010.

With the great supports and co-operation of our ship owners/operators, the PSC measure is implemented effectively as no Hong Kong registered ship get detained by the USCG since 14 July 2010, and only one vessel was detained by the AMSA since 7 October 2010.

Unfortunately a Hong Kong registered ship was detained in the US on 24 November 2010. 27 deficiencies including three detainable items were detected during the PSC inspection. Furthermore, there is no record showing that the company concerned has submitted the completed checklist to this Department. We believe that the detention could be avoided if the ship master could strictly follow the PSC measure to inspect his vessel before entering the US. The deficiency list is reproduced at Annex for attention and lesson learned.

With this detention, the estimated three-year rolling detention rate of Hong Kong registered ships visiting the US is now reaching the marginal level. You and your masters are urged to put your great effort to fully implement the PSC measure to enhance the safety standards of your Hong Kong registered ships and thus avoid detentions, in particular ships visiting the US and Australian ports. Your efforts will help us to regain the qualification of QUALSHIP21.

同心協力，促進卓越海事服務
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We would also 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 related to PSC inspections and QUALSHIP21 status for Hong Kong ships, please feel free to contact Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety Section at

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Yours faithfully,



(Q. Shi)
Acting Senior Surveyor
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for Director of Marine

Annex:

- Deficiency List of a Vessel Detained by USCG on 24 Nov 2010