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28 October 2025

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

Guidelines for Hong Kong registered Chemical Tankers Assigned with Dual Certificates of Fitness (COF)

In general, a survey is required whenever shipowners opts for a change of type in the COF of a Type 2 chemical tanker from Type 2 to Type 3 or vice versa. This circular letter serves to inform shipowners and ship managers of Hong Kong registered Type 2 chemical tankers that Marine Department accepts such tanker for having additional COF as a Type 3 chemical tanker, provided that such tanker complies with all the requirements for a Type 3 chemical tanker in accordance with the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (IBC Code), as amended, and is certified as satisfactory by the Recognized Organization(RO). A survey is not required every time such tanker is change from Type 2 COF to Type 3 COF or vice versa. Ship Master should follow the following guidelines:

- a. Only one set of COF appropriate for the cargo loaded onboard shall be displayed at all times;
- b. The other set of COF currently not in use shall be kept away from the one in use and locked in the Master's safe;
- c. An official entry shall be made in the official log book every time when there is a change in type in the COF;
- d. The exchange of COF shall be carried out by the Master in accordance with the procedures established in the shipboard Safety Management System (SMS); and

- e. The ship's Procedures and Arrangements (P&A) Manual approved by RO shall contain procedure for handling both Type 2 and Type 3 cargoes. This may be accomplished either by using two separate manuals or one combined manual.

It is for the purpose to ensure masters on chemical tankers issued with dual COF in adhering to the aforementioned requirements and the Regulations for the Control of Pollution by Noxious Liquid Substances in Bulk (Annex II of International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)), shipowners shall incorporate appropriate procedures and instructions for such purposes into the SMS of such chemical tankers

A copy of this letter shall be kept on board for readily reference.

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

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Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website copy)

(H.F. YUE)
Senior Surveyor of Ships/Cargo Ships Safety
for Director of Marine