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To: Shipowners, Ship Managers and Ship Masters

Dear Sirs/Madams,

New Inspection Regime of the Tokyo MOU

The Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo MOU) issued a Press Release on 15 February 2013 notifying that a New Inspection Regime (NIR) for selection of ships would be introduced from 1 January 2014. Member Authorities of the Tokyo MOU including Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Thailand, Vanuatu and Viet Nam will follow the NIR for carrying out port State control inspection with effect from 1 January 2014.

The concept of the NIR of the Tokyo MOU is similar to that of the Paris MOU, which has been introduced since 2011. The NIR designed to check better quality ships less often but high risk ships more frequently. The NIR mainly consists of a combination of ship risk profile and time windows/inspection intervals for indication of priority in selection of ships for inspection. Under the NIR, the existing ship targeting factors will be replaced by the ship risk profile which is used for identifying the categories of ships, i.e. high risk ships, standard risk ships or low risk ships. In addition, different time windows/inspection intervals will be applied to the corresponding categories of ships, i.e. 9 to 18 months for low risk ships, 5 to 8 months for standard risk ships and 2 to 4 months for high risk ships.

However, if any overriding factors or under-performing ships (i.e. ships have been detained for 3 times or above in the past 12 months by the member Authorities of the Tokyo MOU) are identified, the NIR is no longer applicable and these ships will be targeted for inspection at every port of the member Authorities.

For more information about the NIR, please refer to the attached Press Release issued by the Tokyo MOU.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety Section at telephone number (852) 2852 4510, fax number (852) 2545 0556 or e-mail "ss_css@mardep.gov.hk".

Yours faithfully,

(S.H. Tse)
Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety Section
for Director of Marine

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