



## 香 港 商 船 資 訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

**Amendments to the International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (2011 ESP Code)**

*To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and Classification Societies*

***Summary***

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO resolution MSC.553(103) and to advise the parties concerned of the amendments to the International Code on the Enhanced Programme of Inspections during Surveys of Bulk Carriers and Oil Tankers, 2011 (the "2011 ESP Code") relating to the approval of thickness measurement firms which will enter into force on 1 January 2026.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at its 108th session adopted the Resolution MSC.553(108) on 23 May 2024 to amend the 2011 ESP Code. The amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2026.
2. IMO Resolution MSC.553(108) modifies the "Procedures for approval and certification of a firm engaged in thickness measurement of hull structures", permitting the Administrations (not only their Recognized Organizations), to directly exercise the right to audit a firm conducting thickness measurement of hull structures.
3. The details of IMO resolution MSC.553(108) can be found on the website of the Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/legislation/notices/msin/index.html>) as attachment to this Information Note.
4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators, ship masters and classification societies of Hong Kong registered ships are reminded to take note of the amendment and act accordingly.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy Division

1 November 2024