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HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Unified Interpretations of SOLAS Chapters II-1 and XII, of the Technical Provisions for Means of Access for Inspections (Resolution MSC.158(78)) and of the Performance Standards for Water Level Detectors on Ships subject to SOLAS Regulations II-1/25, II-1/25-1 and XII/12 (Resolution MSC.188(79)/Rev.2)

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

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate the Unified Interpretations of SOLAS Chapters II-1 and XII, of the Technical Provisions for Means of Access for Inspections (Resolution MSC.158(78)) and of the Performance Standards for Water Level Detectors on Ships subject to SOLAS Regulations II-1/25, II-1/25-1 and XII/12 (Resolution MSC.188(79)/Rev.2), as given in circular MSC.1/Circ.1572/Rev.2, reflecting any modifications arising from the new requirements to ensure appropriate protection against explosions in hazardous areas.

1. The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at its 108th session in May 2024, approved the circular MSC.1/Circ.1572/Rev.2 regarding the unified interpretation of SOLAS Chapters II-1 and XII, of the Technical Provisions for Means of Access for Inspections (Resolution MSC.158(78)) and of the Performance Standards for Water Level Detectors on Ships subject to SOLAS Regulations II-1/25, II-1/25-1 and XII/12 (Resolution MSC.188(79)/Rev.2).
2. The revisions state that water level detectors in cargo areas should be suitable for installation in hazardous areas as defined by IEC 60092-506. Detectors should be designed to handle explosive gas atmospheres and/or combustible dust that may be present, and installed in cargo areas should be manufactured, tested, marked and installed in compliance with the IEC 60079 series or an equivalent international standard.

3. The circular MSC.1/Circ.1572/Rev.2 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, classification societies and shipbuilders of Hong Kong registered ships are required to note the unified interpretations and act accordingly.

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