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香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY STOWAWAYS AND THE ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO SEEK THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF STOWAWAY CASES

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators and Ship Masters

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned of the *Revised guidelines on the prevention of access by stowaways and the allocation of responsibilities to seek the successful resolution of stowaway cases ("the Revised Guidelines")* adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

1. The Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO at its 111th session on 21 May 2026, adopted the *Revised Guidelines* as set out in the annex to the resolution MSC.448(99)/Rev.1. The resolution MSC.448(99) was consequently revoked.

2. The Revised Guidelines give information to establish international guidance and preventive standards to minimize stowaway incidents and to define clear responsibilities among stakeholders for the prompt, safe, and humane disembarkation or repatriation of stowaways. The Revised Guidelines also update provisions to reflect current operational practices and regulatory developments, and are directly relevant to ship security plans, port facility security assessments, and the obligations of shipowners and masters under SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code.

3. Details of the Revised Guidelines as set out in the annex to the resolution MSC.448(99)/Rev.1 can be found on the webpage of Marine Department (https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/legislation/notices/msin/index.html) as an attachment to this Information Note.

4. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators and ship masters of Hong Kong registered ships are advised to note the Revised Guidelines and act accordingly.

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