

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 170/2023

(Statutory Requirements)

Implementation of the Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) (Amendment) Regulation 2023

The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) (Amendment) Regulation 2023 (the “Amendment Regulation”) will come into operation on 1 January 2024 to implement the amendments to Annex I to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL Annex I) as stipulated in resolution MEPC.343(78) adopted by the International Maritime Organization. Details of the Amendment Regulation can be found in the following link:-

<https://www.gld.gov.hk/egazette/pdf/20232726/es220232726106.pdf>

2. The Amendment Regulation specifies that openings fitted with certain hinged watertight doors are excluded from the requirement of being located above the final waterline after flooding for complying with the damage stability criteria. The Amendment Regulation applies to local vessels which are oil tankers of 150 gross tonnage and above delivered after 31 December 1979.

3. Shipowners, operators and coxswains of local vessels are required to observe and comply with the requirements of the Amendment Regulation. For enquiries, please contact the Senior Surveyor of Ships / Environmental Policy at telephone number 2852 3905 or by e-mail to “hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk”.

**Ms Carol Yuen
Director of Marine**

Marine Department
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