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7 January 2009

To : *All Ship Managers and Recognized Classification Societies*

Dear Sirs,

Electronic Nautical Publications Used on Board HK Registered Ships

Hong Kong Merchant Shipping Information Note 43/2006 issued in July 2006 promulgated the IMO requirements on carriage of publications on board ships in MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.2. The circular states that publications carried on board ships may be in the form of either hard copies or electronic media, such as CD-ROM.

When Electronic Nautical Publications (ENPs) are used on board Hong Kong registered ships, the following requirements are applicable :-

- (a) ENPs shall either be published by IMO, an Administration, a hydrographic organization, or other organizations which are authorized by an Administration;
- (b) ENPs shall be kept up-to-date;
- (c) ENPs shall be accessible to the Officer of Watch (OOW) without the need to leave his duty station;
- (d) a computer shall be dedicated for ENPs and connected always to the main and emergency power supplies;
- (e) for backup purpose, ENPs shall also be available in

another computer on board which shall be accessible to the OOW in a short period of time. In addition, hard copies of the publications for emergency use, including the International Code of Signals and IAMSAR Manual, shall be provided on board; and

- (f) operational guidelines for using the system and viewing of the publications shall be available on board and make known to the officers concerned.

If you have any questions related to electronic nautical publications, please contact Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety at

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Yours faithfully,



(S.W. Cheung)
Senior Surveyor/Cargo Ships Safety
for Director of Marine

CSW/-