

海 事 處  
香港統一碼頭道 38 號  
海港政府大樓



**MARINE DEPARTMENT**

HARBOUR BUILDING

38 PIER ROAD

HONG KONG

G.P.O. BOX 4155

HONG KONG

TELEX NO. 64553

ANSWERBACK MARHQ HX

香港郵政總局信箱 4155 號

本處檔號 OUR REF.: MP/N 523/2/5 Pt.4

電話號碼 TEL. NO.: (852) 2852 4601

傳真號碼 FAX NO.: (852) 2542 4841

E-mail : [hk\\_leung@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:hk_leung@mardep.gov.hk)

**BY E-MAIL**

29 June 2009

Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators of Hong Kong registered ships

Dear Sir,

### **Implementation of LRIT System**

I refer to my circular letter dated 9 December 2008 relating to the transitional arrangements on the implementation of LRIT System up to 30 June 2009.

The Maritime Safety Committee, at its 86<sup>th</sup> Session (27 May to 5 June 2009), agreed that the transitional arrangements will expire on 30 June 2009 and there will be no extension to these arrangements. In other words, the date of the implementation of LRIT system will come into force internationally on **1 July 2009**. However, a majority of States are still in various stages of preparation in establishing their Data Centres. In view of the above, the Maritime Safety Committee approved and issued a MSC Circular, document MSC.1/Circ.1309, to maintain an updated list on the status of all Contracting Governments in their preparation on implementation of LRIT requirements and urging Contracting Governments to take a pragmatic and positive position in dealing with the implementation of LRIT requirements in the period from 1 July 2009 till 30 September 2009.

The China National Data Centre (CNDC), which is used for the storage of LRIT data for Hong Kong registered ships, has completed the full scale developmental testing and the Centre will be ready for operation on 1 July 2009. It is expected that a substantial number of data centres should become operative by 30 September 2009 and full operation of LRIT System may begin internationally on 1 October 2009. Hong Kong registered ships will likely need to send out LRIT data starting from **1 October 2009**.

As at 29 June 2009, over 1030 Hong Kong registered ships have completed satisfactorily the shipboard LRIT Equipment Conformance Testing representing over 87% of the total number of ship of 300 gross tonnage and upwards in Hong Kong Shipping

Registered. Shipowners of Hong Kong registered ships are advised to take the following necessary actions to ensure timely compliance to avoid delay in port State control:

- Hong Kong registered ships if not yet conducted the shipboard LRIT equipment conformance test should timely apply to one of the authorized ASPs for the conformance testing within the required period of time and obtain the required Conformance Test Report;
- Hong Kong registered ships after having satisfactorily completed the shipboard LRIT conformance testing and issued with the Conformance Test Report should maintain the LRIT equipment in good working condition and leave the equipment with power on at all time;
- the Conformance Test Report with duly endorsed Record of Equipment for the Cargo Ship Safety Equipment Certificate should be kept onboard for port State control inspections; and
- Any changes on the shipboard LRIT equipment should require a new conformance test with Conformance Test Report re-issued.

Yours sincerely,



( H.K. Leung )

Chief, Marine Accident Investigation & Shipping Security Policy  
for Director of Marine

Encl.

MSC.1/Circ.1309