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Shipping Guidance Notice – 154

Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmental Sound Recycling of Ships

(To be read in conjunction with SGN 089 & 089a)

To: Ship Owners, Operators, Master's, Classification Societies and Recognised Organisations

1. Introduction

1.1. The purpose of this Shipping Guidance Notice (SGN) is to provide supplementary guidance to Gibraltar registered ships and associated stakeholders in relation to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC), which entered into force on ***26 June 2025***.

2. Application

2.1. As of the date of publication of this SGN, The HKC has not been implemented under Gibraltar legislation.

2.2. The above does not however mean that Gibraltar registered ships are excluded from compliance with the requirements of the HKC, as under Article 3 of the HKC, ships entitled to fly the flag of non-Parties to this Convention, parties shall apply the requirements of this Convention as may be necessary to ensure that no more favourable treatment is given to such ships.

2.3. The HKC applies to ships 500 GT and above, with the exception of:

2.3.1. ships operating throughout their life only in waters subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly; and,

2.3.2. any warships, naval auxiliary, or other ships owned or operated by a Party and used, for the time being, only on government non-commercial service.

2.4. Subject to verification of compliance with the requirements of the HKC, ships are to be issued with an International Certificate on Inventory of Hazardous Materials. In this respect, with reference to 2.1 above, Gibraltar registered ships may be issued with a Statement/Document of Compliance confirming the ship's compliance with the requirements of the HKC. Subject to implementation of the HKC under Gibraltar legislation, such Statements/Documents of Compliance may be exchanged for an International Certificate on Inventory of Hazardous Materials by the issuing authority.

2.5. Any further information on the implementation of the HKC under Gibraltar legislation will be communicated to all stakeholders by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration.

3. Survey and Certification

3.1. In respect of Gibraltar registered ships, the functions in respect of survey and certification requirements under the HKC, will be devolved by the Gibraltar Maritime Administration to its Recognised Organisations (RO).

4. Inventory of Hazardous Materials

4.1. Under Regulation 5 of the HKC, each new ship[1] shall have on board an Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) in accordance with Regulation 5 of the HKC.

4.2. Existing ships[2] shall have on board an IHM no later than 5 years after the entry into force of the HKC, or, before the ship is to be recycled if this is earlier.

4.3. The IHM shall be maintained and updated throughout the operational life of the ship, reflecting any new installations containing hazardous materials, and relevant changes in ship structure and equipment.

4.4. Prior to recycling the IHM shall in addition incorporate operationally generated wastes, and stores.

5. Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013

5.1. Gibraltar registered ships (new and existing) are additionally subject to compliance with Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013 on ship recycling *(refer to SGN's 089 & 089(a))*.

5.2. In respect of Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013, Gibraltar ships (new and existing) are as per Article 12 of (EU) No 1257/2013 required to have an IHM in accordance with (EU) No 1257/2013, Article 5(2).

6. Relationship between the HKC & Regulation (EU) No 1257/2013

6.1. Given the similarities between IHM's under both (EU) No 1257/2013 and the HKC, it may be possible that existing Gibraltar registered ships in compliance with (EU) No 1257/2013 IHM requirements and which hold a valid Statement/Document of Compliance in respect of (EU) No 1257/2013, may satisfy the IHM requirements of the HKC.

6.2. In cases relating to existing ships as described in 6.1 above, the Gibraltar Maritime Administration has no objection for the RO to undertake administrative reviews of initial/renewal surveys and IHM reviews undertaken pursuant to (EU) No 1257/2013, and if satisfied in respect of the HKC requirements, issue a HKC Statement/Document of Compliance based on the aforementioned (EU) No 1257/2013 initial/renewal survey, to be harmonised with the (EU) No 1257/2013 Statement/Document of Compliance.

[1] *"New ship" means a ship:*

1. *for which the building contract is placed on or after the entry into force of the HKC; or*
2. *in the absence of a building contract, the keel of which is laid or which is at a similar stage of construction on or after six months after the entry into force of the HKC; or*
3. *the delivery of which is on or after 30 months after the entry into force of the HKC.*

[2] *"Existing ship" means a ship which is not a new ship.*

Steve Gomez
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