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To : *Shipowners / Ship Managers and Classification Societies*

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Guidelines for Hong Kong Registered  
Ships Assigned with Multiple Load Lines  
(Verification the Change of Freeboard)**

In the past, Hong Kong ships holding multiple International Load Line Certificates were required to be verified by Recognized Organization (RO) surveyor whenever shipowners wished to make changes to the assigned freeboard. This circular letter serves to advise that with immediate effect Marine Department accepts that the verification can be conducted by the ship's master instead of the RO surveyor. For change of the assigned freeboard, the master should follow the following guidelines :-

- a. Only one set of load line marks shall be visible on the ship's side and the associated load line certificate shall be displayed at all times;
- b. The remaining load line marks shall be properly obliterated with paint and the remaining load line certificate(s) not being used shall be kept away from the one in use; and
- c. An official entry shall be made in the official log book every time the load line mark has been changed.

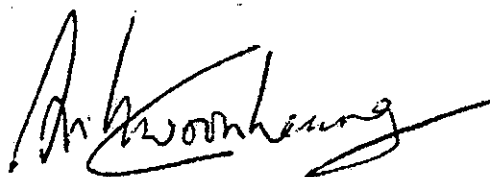
- d. Other statutory certificates with indication of deadweight not corresponding to the International Load Line Certificate in use shall also be kept away from the one in use.

With a view to ensuring masters of the ships having multiple load lines adhere to the aforementioned requirements, it is recommended that shipboard safety management system on such ships should include appropriate procedures and instructions for such purposes.

A letter of approval issued by this Department to carry more than one International Load Line Certificate and a copy of this letter shall be kept on board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any query.

Yours faithfully,



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

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