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MSC.1/Circ.1231
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**INTERIM SCHEME FOR THE COMPLIANCE OF
CERTAIN CARGO SHIPS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS WITH THE
MANAGEMENT FOR THE SAFE OPERATIONS OF SHIPS**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (the Committee), at its eighty-second session (29 November to 8 December 2006), noted that in a number of cases, cargo ships and special purposes ships of 500 gross tonnage and upwards engaged on international voyages were not required to comply with the provisions of SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code, on the grounds that the provisions of resolution A.494(XII) on the Revised Interim Scheme for Tonnage Measurement for Certain Ships were applicable to them and thus they were allowed to use the gross tonnage, as determined under national tonnage rules which were in effect prior to the coming into force of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 (TONNAGE 69), for establishing the applicability of SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code.

2 The Committee agreed that the gross tonnage to be used for determining whether a cargo ship or special purpose ship engaged on international voyages is required to comply with the provisions of SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code shall be that determined in accordance with the provisions of TONNAGE 69.

3 The Committee recognized that immediate compliance of the cargo ships or special purpose ships which have not been required to comply with the provisions of SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code presented practical difficulties and would affect the owners and the Companies operating such ships. As a result the Committee adopted the Interim Scheme for the compliance of certain cargo ships and special purpose ships with the Management for the safe operations of ships (the Interim Scheme) as set out at annex.

4 SOLAS Contracting Governments are invited to bring the Interim Scheme to the attention of owners and of companies operating cargo ships and special purpose ships entitled to fly their flag.

5 SOLAS Contracting Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations with consultative status that encounter difficulties with the implementation of the Interim Scheme should bring, at the earliest opportunity, the matter to the attention of the Committee for consideration of the issues involved and decision on the actions to be taken.

ANNEX

**INTERIM SCHEME FOR THE COMPLIANCE OF
CERTAIN CARGO SHIPS AND SPECIAL PURPOSE SHIPS WITH THE
MANAGEMENT FOR THE SAFE OPERATIONS OF SHIPS**

The Maritime Safety Committee decided that:

- 1 For the purpose of this scheme:
 - .1 “Gross Tonnage” means the gross tonnage of the ship as determined under the provisions of the International Convention on the Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 and shown on the International Tonnage Certificate (1969) of the ship;
 - .2 “Requirements” means the requirements of SOLAS chapter IX and the ISM Code;
 - .3 “Cargo ship” means a cargo ship, irrespective of the date on which the keel of the ship was laid, of 500 gross tonnage and upwards engaged on international voyages which have not been required by the Administration to comply with the Requirements on the grounds of national tonnage rules;
 - .4 “Special purpose ship” means a special purpose ship as defined in the SPS Code, irrespective of the date on which the keel of the ship was laid, of 500 gross tonnage and upwards engaged on international voyages which have not been required by the Administration to comply with the Requirements; and
 - .5 “SPS Code” means the Code of Safety for Special Purpose Ships which is annexed to resolution A.534(13) as amended¹.
- 2 Terms not otherwise defined in this Scheme shall have the same meaning as the meaning attributed to them in SOLAS chapters I and IX or the ISM Code.
- 3 Cargo ships, special purpose ships and Companies operating such ships which have not been required to comply with the Requirements shall comply with the Requirements not later than 1 January 2010.
- 4 Cargo ships and special purpose ships which, on the date of adoption of the Scheme, were holding a valid Safety Management Certificate or Interim Safety Management Certificate shall not be entitled to any benefits under this Scheme and shall maintain compliance with the Requirements. Companies, as defined in STCW Convention, regulation I/1.1.23, operating such ships shall maintain compliance with the requirements of STCW Convention, regulation I/14 and STCW Code, section A-1/14. In addition, such ships shall remain subject to control pursuant to the provisions of SOLAS regulations I/19, IX/6.2 and XI-1/4 and STCW Convention, article X and regulation I/4.
- 5 Contracting Governments when exercising control pursuant to the provisions of SOLAS regulations I/19, IX/6.2 and XI-1/4 in relation to cargo ships and special purpose ships shall adhere to the provisions of the Scheme.
- 6 This Scheme shall cease to apply on 1 January 2010.

¹ As amended by MSC/Circs.446, 478 and 739, and resolution MSC.183(79). MSC/Circ.739 included new amendments to the SPS Code and consolidates the ones adopted under cover of MSC/Circs.446 and 478.