



香 港 商 船 資 訊

HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

Amendments to the BCH Code (special, operational and minimum requirements)

To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies

Summary

The purpose of this Note is to advise the parties concerned on the adoption of the amendments to special, operational and minimum requirements of the Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Dangerous Chemicals in Bulk (BCH Code) at the 74th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 74) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

1. The MEPC 74 adopted resolution MEPC.319(74) on 17 May 2019 to amend the special, operational and minimum requirements in Chapters IV, V and VI of the BCH Code. The amendments are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2021.
2. The main mandatory requirements of the amendments to the BCH Code could be summarized as follows:
 - (a) Ships carrying bulk liquids prone to hydrogen sulphide formation must be provided with H₂S detection equipment. Toxic vapour detection instruments complying with 3.11.1 of the Code for testing for H₂S may be used to satisfy this requirement.
 - (b) On operational requirements, the amendment made to Chapter V of the Code requires prewash to be mandatory in specific areas for substances which are designated as persistent floaters with a high viscosity and/or high melting point.
3. A copy of aforementioned resolution can be found on the website of Marine Department (<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/msnote/msin.html>) as attachment to this Note.
4. Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators, Masters and Classification Societies are required to note the information and act accordingly.

5. Any enquiries in relation to this Merchant Shipping Information Note may be directed to the Senior Surveyor of the Maritime Policy Branch at telephone number 2852 4395 or by e-mail to “hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk”.

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12 August 2019