

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

PILOTAGE ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 84) PILOTAGE (DUES) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2002

INTRODUCTION

A Section 22 of the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84) empowers the Pilotage Authority, who is the Director of Marine, to set the amount of pilotage dues by order published in the Gazette after consultation with the Pilotage Advisory Committee. This brief explains the Pilotage (Dues) (Amendment) Order 2002 (“the Order”) at Annex A.

JUSTIFICATIONS

2. The pilotage dues are not Government fees and are charged by licensed pilots for the provision of pilotage services. The levels are periodically reviewed by the Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association, representing shipping lines, and the Hong Kong Pilots Association (HKPA). The latest review recommended a reduction in the rates of certain pilotage dues. After endorsement by the Pilotage Advisory Committee, the role of the Director of Marine is to set the recommended amount of pilotage dues by order published in the Gazette. Details of the proposal are as follows -

- (a) for ships having a gross registered tonnage of 30,000 to 60,000 tons, the existing 6.25 cents per ton will be reduced to 6 cents per ton, subject to a minimum of \$1,950;
- (b) for ships having a gross registered tonnage of more than 60,000 tons, the existing 6.25 cents per ton will be reduced to 5.75 cents per ton, subject to a minimum of \$3,600; and

- (c) a reduction in the additional pilotage due for pilots boarding or disembarking from Ngan Chau or at the west of Lamma Island, from \$1,900 to \$1,800.

THE ORDER

- 3. This Order amends the Schedule to the Pilotage (Dues) Order to give effect to the consensus of the shipping industry to reduce pilotage dues as set out in paragraph 2.

LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE

- 4. The Order will be gazetted on 20 December 2002 and will be tabled at the Legislative Council on 8 January 2003.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 5. While pilotage due is only a small cost item in an ocean ship sailing, a reduction in pilotage due, as part of the costs of ship call to the port of Hong Kong, is positive for Hong Kong's position as an international maritime centre.

- 6. The proposal is in conformity with the Basic Law, including the provisions concerning human rights. It will not affect the current binding effect of the Pilotage Ordinance. It has no financial implication and does not involve staffing implications for the Government.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 7. The proposal has the support of the Pilotage Advisory Committee.

PUBLICITY

8. A press release will be issued on 20 December 2002 and a spokesman will be available to handle enquiries.

ENQUIRIES

9. Any enquiry on this brief can be addressed to Mr C N CHUNG, Marine Officer (2233 7812) or Miss Florence CHAN, Assistant Secretary (Port, Maritime and Logistics) (2537 2842).

Economic Development and Labour Bureau
20 December 2002

PILOTAGE (DUES)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 2002

(Made under section 22 of the Pilotage Ordinance (Cap. 84) after consultation with the Pilotage Advisory Committee)

1. Commencement

This Order shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Director of Marine by notice published in the Gazette.

2. Schedule amended

The Schedule to the Pilotage (Dues) Order (Cap. 84 sub. leg.) is amended –

(a) in Part I –

- (i) in paragraph 1(a), by repealing “or” at the end;
- (ii) by repealing paragraph 1(b) and substituting –

“(b) for ships having a gross registered tonnage of or above 30 000 tons but not exceeding 60 000 tons, 6 cents per ton of the ship’s gross registered tonnage or \$1,950, whichever is the greater; or

- (c) for ships having a gross registered tonnage exceeding 60 000 tons, 5.75 cents per ton of the ship’s gross registered tonnage or \$3,600, whichever is the greater.”;

- (b) in Part II, in paragraph 5, by repealing “\$1,900” and substituting “\$1,800”.



Pilotage Authority

16 December 2002

Explanatory Note

This Order amends the Pilotage (Dues) Order (Cap. 84 sub. leg.) by reducing the standard pilotage dues and one further item of additional pilotage due.