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Your ref.: CB4/SS/6/18

> Mr Ambrose LEUNG Clerk to Subcommittee Legislative Council Complex 1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr LEUNG,

Subcommittee on Subsidiary Legislation to Implement the Latest Requirements under **Conventions of the International Maritime Organization**

Follow-up to meeting on 29 April 2019

Thank you for your letter dated 29 April 2019, relaying to us a request for information on the sampling rate adopted by port authorities in other jurisdictions to survey the ships which were registered locally. Our response is set out as follows.

Flag State Inspection

To ensure satisfactory standards of merchant shipping vessels flying their flags, flag states will carry out inspections of their ships. Of note is that it is a common international practice for flag states to entrust classification societies to carry out such inspections. While the Marine Department does not have the inspection rates of other flag states, in accordance with the various requirements of the International Maritime Organization, merchant shipping vessels are required to be inspected or surveyed and certificated at least once every year to ensure that they are seaworthy.

Should you have further enquiries, please contact the undersigned at 3509 8162. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(Ms Louisa YAN)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing