

立法會
Legislative Council

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**Paper for the House Committee Meeting
of the Legislative Council
on 3 December 1999**

**Legal Service Division Report on
Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Amendment) Bill 1999**

Object of the Bill

This Bill is to amend certain provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Safety) Ordinance (Cap. 369) ("the Ordinance") to give effect to the 1988 Protocol to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and the 1988 Protocol to the International Convention on Load Lines 1966 adopted by the International Maritime Organisation ("IMO").

LegCo Brief Reference

2. ECON 7627/45(99)Pt. 18 issued by the Economic Services Bureau in November 1999.

Date of First Reading

3. 1 December 1999.

Comments

4. Hong Kong is an Associate Member of the IMO and is obliged to give effect to the amendment to the 2 Conventions through domestic legislation. Contracting parties have agreed to target February 2000 for the provisions on the harmonized system of survey and certification of ships to come into effect.

5. The amendments introduced in this Bill are mostly technical. Clause 6 adds a new section 21A to the Ordinance which permits the issue of a combined cargo ship safety certificate, as an alternative to three separate certificates (i.e. a cargo ship safety construction certificate, a cargo ship safety equipment certificate and a cargo ship safety radio certificate).

6. The duration of the above-mentioned certificates will be standardised to be valid for not more than five years or for such shorter period as may be specified in the certificates (Clause 9). They can also be extended under certain circumstances (Clause 10) to take account of the time of survey.

Public Consultation

7. According to paragraph 11 of the LegCo Brief, the shipping industry has been consulted and they are in support of the amendments.

Consultation with the LegCo Panel

8. A paper (CB(1)369/99-00) has been submitted to the members of LegCo Panel on Economic Services on 15 November 1999 for the meeting to be held on 30 November 1999.

Conclusion

9. The Legal Services Division is seeking clarifications from the Administration on certain technical points. Members may defer deliberation on this Bill pending a further report.

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