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28 June 2013

Mr. Timothy Tso
Assistant Legal Adviser
Legal Service Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Hong Kong

By Fax – 2877 5029

Dear Mr. Tso,

Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) (Amendment) Bill 2013 (the Bill)

Thank you for your letter of 27 June 2013.

The main purpose of the Bill is to amend the Merchant Shipping (Seafarers) Ordinance (Cap. 478) (the Ordinance) to implement certain requirements of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (the Convention). The Bill also includes technical amendments to some of the affected provisions of the Ordinance, including replacing “shall” by “must” and “forthwith” by “without delay”. These amendments will “modernize” the provisions but will not affect their substantive meaning.

The focus of the Bill relates to the implementation of the Convention. We do not intend to propose Committee Stage Amendments solely for replacing “shall” and “forthwith”. The replacement will not affect the legal interpretation of the provisions.

Yours sincerely,

(Jason LAM)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Department of Justice (Attn: Ms Mabel Cheung – Fax: 2845 2215)
Clerk to Bills Committee

THR I