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The Requirements of the International Voyage Ships Equipping with the "Damage Control Booklet"

Chinese PSCOs have found that some ships are not equipped with the "Damage Control Booklet" in accordance with the requirements of SOLAS convention. According to the requirements of the revised SOLAS Chapter II-1, the ships engaged in international voyage (on the basis of ship age, gross tonnage and type) should be equipped with the "Damage Control Booklet" and "Damage Control Plan", so as to provide guidance for senior officers on board. As a new circular from IMO maritime safety committee, MSC.1/Circular1245 (19.10.2007) had provided guidelines for the formulation and use of the "Damage Control Booklet" and "Damage Control Plan".

In this regard, China MSA reminds all the international navigation ships, traded in Chinese waters, that the "Damage Control Booklet" and "Damage Control Plan" should be equipped well according to the requirements of the revised SOLAS convention. The ships that do not meet those requirements should at least 24 hours in advance report to the maritime safety administration of the port where the ship plans to call, and should provide proper solutions accordingly; Otherwise, while implementing the inspections of port state control, PSCOs will issue deficiencies to your ship and require that ship to rectify those deficiencies before sailing.

The requirements of SOLAS convention for equipping with the "Damage Control Booklet" and "Damage Control Plan" are as follows for your information:

- For all passenger ships, regardless of size,
- For dry cargo ships over 100 metres in length, built on or after 1 February 1992,
- For dry cargo ships over 80 metres in length, built on or after 1 July 1998,
- For all other ships, regardless of length, constructed on or after 1 January 2009,
- Reference documents: MSC.1/Circ.1245 Guidelines for Damage Control Plans and Information to the Master.

For more information, please see our website at www.msa.gov.cn.