

MCI Circular 307/2024

To: Vessel Owners, Managers, Masters, Officers, Deputy Registrars and Other Interested Parties

Subject: Entry into force of the Hong Kong Convention 2009

Attachments: HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECYCLING OF SHIPS, 2009

Date: 27th December 2024

Kia Orana,

We would like to draw your attention to the **Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009** (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), that will enter into force on **26th June 2025**. This milestone reflects a significant step forward in ensuring safe and environmentally responsible practices in ship recycling activities worldwide.

Scope and Objectives of the Convention

The Convention aims to:

1. Ensure that ships, when being recycled, do not pose unnecessary risks to human health, safety, and the environment.
2. Regulate the design, construction, operation, and preparation of ships to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling.
3. Establish mandatory requirements for ship recycling facilities to meet globally agreed safety and environmental standards.

Application of the Convention

The Convention applies to:

1. **Ships**
 - 500 gross tonnage and above, engaged in international voyages and:
 - o contracted for construction on or after 26 June 2025, development and maintenance of Part I of the IHM will be required on delivery, or
 - o contracted for construction before that date, Part I of the IHM is to be developed not later than 5 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention, i.e. **26th June 2030**.
 - o Excludes ships operating solely on domestic routes and warships or other vessels used for non-commercial government service.
 - o It is to be noted that EU Ship Recycling Regulation (EU SRR), enhancing certain requirements of the Hong Kong Convention, has already entered into force on 30 December 2013 and it has been fully applicable since 31 December 2020. EU SSR is

applicable both for EU flagged ships and for ships flying the flag of a third country calling at a port or anchorage of an EU Member State.

2. Ship Recycling Facilities

- o Facilities authorized to recycle ships in compliance with the Convention's standards.

Key Requirements

For Shipowners

- Maintain an **Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM)**, which must be specific to each ship and regularly updated.
- Ensure ships intended for recycling are only sent to authorized and certified recycling facilities.

For Recycling Facilities

- Obtain authorization from the competent authority to ensure compliance with the Convention's requirements.
- Develop a **Ship Recycling Plan (SRP)** tailored for each ship, considering its IHM.

Cook Islands' flagged vessels

The Cook Islands are not yet signatories to the Convention. Consequently, Owners have the option to request any CI-authorized Recognized Organization to issue a Statement of Compliance for the Inventory of Hazardous Materials. This statement is provided upon completion of the initial survey, as outlined in Regulation 10 of the Convention.

Owners and managers can address their queries to the following email address:

technical@maritimecookislands.com

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

HKSRC.1/Circ.21
26 June 2023

**HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFE AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECYCLING OF SHIPS, 2009**

Accession by Bangladesh and Liberia

Entry into force

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, and to state that with the deposit of instruments of accession by the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Liberia on 26 June 2023, the requirements for the entry into force of the Convention, as set out in article 17(1), have been fulfilled.

Article 17(1) provides the following:

"This Convention shall enter into force 24 months after the date on which the following conditions are met:

- .1 not less than 15 States have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with article 16;
- .2 the combined merchant fleets of the States mentioned in paragraph 1.1 constitute not less than 40% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping; and
- .3 the combined maximum annual ship recycling volume of the States mentioned in paragraph 1.1 during the preceding 10 years constitutes not less than 3% of the gross tonnage of the combined merchant shipping of the same States."

There are, at present, 22 Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 45.81%¹ of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping. The combined annual ship recycling volume of the Contracting States during the preceding 10 years amounts to 23,848,453 gross tonnage², equivalent to 3.31% of the required recycling volume.

Therefore, in accordance with article 17(1), the Convention will enter into force on 26 June 2025, 24 months following the date on which the requirements for entry into force were met.

¹ Tonnage calculated as at 26 June 2023 based on world tonnage figures provided by S&P Global current as of 20 June 2023.

² Recycling data provided by S&P Global and based on the volumes recycled between 2012-2021.

The annex to this circular contains the list of the 22 Contracting States to the Convention.

The instrument of accession by Bangladesh contained the following declaration, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 6 of the Convention:

"Bangladesh declares that it requires tacit approval of the Ship Recycling Plan before a ship may be recycled in its authorized Ship Recycling Facility/Facilities."

The instrument of accession by Liberia was accompanied by the following declaration, in accordance with article 16, paragraph 6 of the Convention:

"The Government of Liberia declares that it requires explicit approval of the Ship Recycling Plan before a ship may be recycled in its authorized Ship Recycling Facility(ies)."

ANNEX

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND RECYCLING OF SHIPS, 2009

Done in Hong Kong, 15 May 2009

Entry into force: 26 June 2025

| State | Date of deposit of instrument | Date of entry into force | % World Tonnage | Merchant Fleet (GT) 2022 | Ship Recycling volume (GT) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bangladesh | 26 June 2023 | 26 June 2025 | 0.20% | 3,184,415 | 9,888,137 |
| Belgium | 7 March 2016 | 26 June 2025 | 0.38% | 5,981,943 | 36,441 |
| Congo | 19 May 2014 | 26 June 2025 | 0.00% | 10,223 | 0 |
| Croatia | 16 February 2021 | 26 June 2025 | 0.07% | 1,042,735 | 2,814 |
| Denmark | 14 June 2017 | 26 June 2025 | 1.45% | 22,781,376 | 83,233 |
| Estonia | 25 April 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 0.02% | 358,182 | 2,422 |
| France | 2 July 2014 | 26 June 2025 | 0.57% | 8,970,361 | 5,486 |
| Germany | 16 July 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 0.52% | 8,220,946 | 1,534 |
| Ghana | 18 November 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 0.00% | 65,255 | 1,658 |
| India | 28 November 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 0.72% | 11,335,480 | 12,210,082 |
| Japan | 27 March 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 1.99% | 31,288,121 | 13,343 |
| Liberia | 26 June 2023 | 26 June 2025 | 15.69% | 246,408,166 | 0 |
| Luxembourg | 29 July 2022 | 26 June 2025 | 0.08% | 1,226,730 | 0 |
| Malta | 14 May 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 4.91% | 77,154,742 | 342 |
| Netherlands (Kingdom of the)* | 20 February 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 0.43% | 6,679,318 | 11,288 |
| Norway | 26 June 2013 | 26 June 2025 | 1.28% | 20,129,896 | 17,827 |
| Panama | 19 September 2016 | 26 June 2025 | 15.63% | 245,453,297 | 8,559 |
| Portugal | 28 March 2023 | 26 June 2025 | 1.32% | 20,712,136 | 3,095 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 15 August 2022 | 26 June 2025 | 0.00% | 2,510 | 0 |
| Serbia | 22 March 2019 | 26 June 2025 | - | - | 0 |
| Spain | 3 June 2021 | 26 June 2025 | 0.18% | 2,821,126 | 21,392 |
| Türkiye | 31 January 2019 | 26 June 2025 | 0.36% | 5,715,562 | 1,540,800 |
| | | Totals | 45.81% | 719,542,520** | 23,848,453*** |

* Extended to Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba on 20 February 2023

** 719,542,520 / 1,570,741,844 (world tonnage) = 45.81%

*** 23,848,453 / 719,542,520 = 3.31%