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Managers of
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Managers of
**The Shipowners' Mutual Protection and
Indemnity Association (Luxembourg)**

TO ALL MEMBERS

February 2010

REGULATIONS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

Members have previously been advised that the new Regulations of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution from Ships ("the Regulations") are due to take effect on 1st March 2010, but that the requirement for 'operators' of any ship carrying polluting and hazardous cargoes in bulk or of any other vessel above 10,000 gt to conclude a pollution clean-up contract with an MSA approved pollution response company before entering a PRC port would probably be postponed.

It is the International Group's understanding that the Regulations will still become effective on 1st March 2010. However, the Group understands that the PRC's Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) has still not completed the approval of contractors who will act as spill response organisations in accordance with the Regulations and has not agreed the standard contractual terms under which such organisations will operate.

As a result, the Group's understanding remains that the date for operators to pre-contract with an approved pollution response contractor (1st March 2010) will not be enforced and that vessel owners may have a further three months from the date on which the list of approved contractors and the standard contractual terms under which they will operate are published to make the necessary arrangements in order to ensure compliance.

The IG will continue to engage with the PRC MSA in this regard and a further update to Members will be provided in due course.

As noted, Members should continue to work on the basis that the other provisions of the Regulations will become effective on 1st March 2010.

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