To: Regional Marine Safety Offices, Nautical Inspectors, Masters, Owners/Agents

Subject: NEWLY DESIGNATED EMISSION CONTROL AREAS IN CHINA

Date: 16 February 2016

This MSA supersedes MSA 35-15 which is now revoked.

Please be advised that China has published new regulations designating three (3) ship emission control areas (ECAs) in its territorial waters, applicable to all the ships which are sailing, anchoring, or working in the ECAs, excluding military ships, sporting ships, and fishing boats.

The three (3) ECAs encompass the coastal and inland waters near the Pearl River Delta (excluding the waters of Hong Kong and Macao), Yangtze River Delta, and Bohai-Rim Sea region, and include eleven core ports. The eleven core ports are: Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhujiang, Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Suzhou, Nantong, Tianjin, Qinhuangdao, Tangshan, and Huanghua.

The implementation of tighter emissions regulations is divided into stages.

1. Commencing 01 January 2016, China began strict enforcement of existing international conventions and domestic laws on sulphur oxides, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides. Further, any port within the ECAs may require all ships at berth to use fuel with less than 0.5% sulphur content.

2. On 01 April 2016, all ships calling at the Yangtze River Delta will be required to use fuel with no more than 0.5% sulphur content while at berth, except during the first hour after arriving or before departing from port. The core ports in this area include: Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Suzhou, and Nantong port.

3. As of 01 January 2017, all ships calling at the eleven core ports within the ECAs will be required to use fuel with no more than a 0.5% sulphur content while at berth, except during the first hour after arriving or before departing from port.

4. Starting 01 January 2018, all ships calling at the eleven core ports within the ECAs will be required to use fuel with no more than a 0.5% sulphur content while at berth.

5. Beginning 01 January 2019, all ships calling at the eleven core ports within the ECAs will be required to use fuel with no more than a 0.5% sulphur content.
6. Before **31 December 2019**, Chinese authorities will assess the effectiveness of the aforementioned control measures and determine whether any of the following additional actions are necessary: reducing the maximum sulphur content to 0.1% for all vessels entering the eleven core ports within ECAs; expanding the size of the ECAs; and the implementation of other control measures.

Please also note that China will permit alternative methods of compliance, including the use of shore power, using clean energy, or exhaust gas scrubbers.

Finally, please be advised that there may be further revisions to this advisory, as the official English-language publication of the new ECA regulations is expected shortly. Going forward, vessels transiting to China may want to monitor developments on a port-by-port basis through their ship agents.

Additional details, coordinates, and maps are provided in Appendix 1.
Appendix 1

Pearl River Delta Area
Sea boundaries: (Below, these include the waters be connected by points A, B, C, D, E, F, excluding the waters of Hong Kong and Macao)

A. The coastline junction point of Huzhou and Shanwei
B. The point 12 NM far away from Zhengtouyan
C. the point 12 NM far away from Jiapeng Islands
D. the point 12 NM far away from Jiawei Island
E. the point 12 NM far away from Dafanshi Island
F. The coastline junction point of Jiangmen and Yangjiang

Please further note:

i. The inner water range: the inner water rivers administered by the cities of Guangzhou, Dongguan, Huizhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Zhongshan, Fushan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing; and

ii. The core ports in this area are Guangzhou, Shenzhen, and Zhuhai (Not on the Map but is located just north of Macau).

Pearl River Delta Area:
Yangtze River Delta Area:

Sea boundaries: (Below, those waters connected by points A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J)

A. The coastline junction point of Nantong and Yancheng
B. The point 12 NM far away from Waikejiao Island
C. The point 12 NM far away from Sheshan Island
D. The point 12 NM far away from Haijiao Reef
E. The point 12 NM far away from Dongnan Reef
F. The point 12 NM far away from Liang Xiongdi Rock
G. The point 12 NM far away from Yushan Islands
H. The point 12 NM far away from Taizhou Islands
I. The point 12 NM far away from the coastline junction point of Taizhou and Wenzhou
J. The coastline junction point of Taizhou and Wenzhou

Please further note:

Inner water area range: the inner water rivers administered by the cities of Nanjing, Zhengjiang, Yangzhou, Taizhou, Nantong, Changzhou, Wuxi, Suzhou, Shanghai, Jiangxing, Huzhou, Hangzhou, Shaoxing, Ningbo-Zhoushan, and Taizhou.

The core ports in this area are: Shanghai, Ningbo-Zhoushan, Nantong and Suzhou (Not on the Map but located west of Shanghai on an inland lake).

Yangtze River Delta Area:
Bohai-Rim Sea Area:

A. Sea boundaries: the water inside the line of two points, one being the coastline junction point of Dalian and Dandong and the other being the coastline junction point of Yantai and Weihai.

B. Inner water area range: the inner water rivers administered by the cities of Dalian, Yinkou, Jinzhou, Huludao, Qinhuangdao, Tangshan, Tianjin, Changzhou, Bingzhou, Dongying, Weifang, and Yantai.

C. The core ports in this area are: Tianjin, Qinhuangdao, Tangshan, and Huanghua (Not on the Map but located south of Tianjin and east of Cangzhou).