

**CIRCULAR REF: 2011/024**

**CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS, BROKERS AND DIRECTORS  
ATTENTION INSURANCE DEPARTMENT**

**18 AUGUST 2011  
AJS/LM**

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

We refer Members to previous circulars on the Regulations of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on the Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution from Ships ("the Regulations"), and the postponement of the requirement that owners/operators of (a) any ship carrying polluting and hazardous cargoes in bulk or (b) any other vessel above 10,000 gt enter into a pollution clean up contract with a Maritime Safety Agency (MSA) approved pollution response company before the vessel enters a PRC port.

Members were previously informed that the MSA Notice issued on 20 May 2011 stated that the lists of level 2, 3 and 4 contractors would be issued by the MSA by 31 August 2011 and the list of level 1 contractors issued during the course of the year<sup>1</sup>.

The International Group has maintained contact with the MSA and now understands that the lists of all approved contractors will be issued in October 2011. The requirement to contract with an approved clean up contractor will still be enforced in all Chinese ports from 1 January 2012. There will therefore be a relatively short period of time for operators to contract with an approved spill responder.

Members have also previously been advised that the term "operator" for the purposes of concluding and signing the contract with a clean up contractor is defined by the MSA as the owner, manager or actual operator of a ship. In respect of those operators not domiciled in China, the International Group now understands that the ship's agent in port, Club correspondent, local law firm or another legal entity located in mainland China (not Hong Kong, China or Macau, China)

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1 Approved clean up contractors will be categorised by the MSA in accordance with their qualifications and response capabilities and will be assigned level 1, 2, 3 or 4 status. Operators will need to contract with an approved clean up contractor in accordance with the size and type of vessel.

## CIRCULAR

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NORTH OF ENGLAND P&I ASSOCIATION LIMITED 100 The Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, NE1 3DU  
Telephone: +44 (0) 191 2325221 Fax: +44 (0) 191 2610540 [www.nepia.com](http://www.nepia.com)

The North of England Protecting and Indemnity Association Limited. Registered in England No. 505456. Registered Office above  
Hong Kong: Room 2503, COSCO Tower, 183 Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong Telephone: +852 25446813 Fax: +852 25424424  
Greece: 5-7 Aghiou Nikolaou, GR 185 37 Piraeus, Greece Telephone: +30 210 4283038 Fax: +30 210 4280920.  
Singapore: 80 Anson Road, #26-04 Fuji Xerox Towers, Singapore 079907 Telephone: +65 64110160 Fax: +65 62240160.  
Tokyo: Akiyoshi Kyobashi Building, 8th Floor, 1-17-2 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan 104-0031 Tel: +81 (3) 5159 5373 Fax: +81 (3) 5250 0003  
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may sign the contract on behalf of the operator if authorised by the operator to do so. The International Group understands that the Master may also sign the contract, which may be necessary in certain circumstances, for example where speed is necessary, although an authorisation would still be necessary for the Master to sign on behalf of the operator.

The International Group is considering the development of a standard form authorisation letter for overseas operators for this purpose and is also continuing to consider the development of supplemental and amending clauses for inclusion in the contract.

A further update to Members with detailed guidance on the contract will be provided in the near future.

All Clubs in the International Group of P&I Clubs have issued similar circulars.

ANDREW STICHBURY  
MANAGER - North Insurance Management Limited  
As Managers on behalf of the North of England P&I Association Limited