

CIRCULAR REF: 2011/036

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

**10 NOVEMBER 2011
CGT/PO**

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, pursuant to advice received from the MSA, that the lists of all approved contractors would be issued in October 2011.

The International Group has maintained contact with the MSA and now understands that the list of all approved contractors has been delayed further as the process of approving responders in the various coastal local provinces is still ongoing and has yet to be finalised. The International Group understands that this has delayed the issue of the list of approved responders until later this month, at the earliest.

While the International Group has drawn the MSA's attention to the difficulty which Members will face in complying with the Regulations if the effective date is not put back, the present understanding is that 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 now be a very short period of time for owners/operators to contract with an approved spill responder.

A further update to Members, including detailed guidance on the spill response contract and procedure for contracting with an approved responder, will be provided in the near future.

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

COLIN TRAPPE
DIRECTOR - North Insurance Management Limited
As Managers on behalf of the North of England P&I Association Limited

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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

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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