

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Maritime Affairs
(Ports and Shipping Wing)

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Karachi, the 4th February, 2020

CIRCULAR SG 09/2020

Subject:- REPORTING OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING PAKISTAN-REGISTERED SHIPS.

Introduction:

This circular should be brought to the attention to all Pakistan-registered ship owners, managers and shipmasters on the reporting procedures of all incidents involving Pakistan-registered ships.

This Shipping Circular serves to inform owners, managers and shipmasters of Pakistan-registered ships on the procedure of reporting of any marine casualty, marine incident or marine security-related incidents involving Pakistan-registered ships.

2. These incidents may include an event, or a sequence of events, which resulted in any of the following occurrences directly in connection with the operations of a ship. In this regard, attention is invited to Section 470 of Pakistan Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 2001:

470. Shipping Casualties and report thereof. (1) For the purpose of inquiries and investigations under this Part, a shipping casualty shall be deemed to occur when,—

(a) on or near the coasts of Pakistan including the territorial waters or in the Pakistan exclusive zone thereof, any ship is lost, abandoned, stranded or materially damaged.

(b) any ship causes loss or material damage to any other ship on or near such coasts, or within such waters;

(c) any loss of life ensues by reason of any casualty happening to or on board any ship on or near those coasts or within such waters;

(d) in any place, any such loss, abandonment, stranding, material damage or casualty occurs to, or on board of, any Pakistani ship, and any competent witness thereof is found in Pakistan; or

(e) any Pakistani ship is lost or is supposed to have been lost, and any evidence is obtainable in Pakistan as to the circumstances under which she proceeded to sea or was last heard of.

(2) In the cases mentioned in clauses (a), (b) and (c) of sub-section (1), the master, pilot, harbour master or other person in charge of the ship, or (where two or more ships are concerned) in charge of each ship, at the time of shipping casualty, shall give immediate notice of the shipping casualty to the officer appointed in this behalf by the Federal Government and if such officer is not the Principal Officer himself, he shall inform the nearest Principal Officer of the shipping casualty.

(3) In the case mentioned in clause (d) of sub-section (1) where the master of the ship concerned, or (except in the case of a loss) where the ship concerned proceeds to any place in Pakistan from the place where the shipping casualty has occurred, the master of the ship shall, on arriving in Pakistan, give immediate notice of the shipping casualty to the nearest Principal Officer.

(4) Any person bound to give notice under this section and wilfully failing to give the same shall be liable to a fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

Initial Immediate Reporting

3. The general principle in any incident is that urgent steps on the ground, in accordance with ships' and companies' approved plans, must first be taken by the shipboard personnel and companies to prevent further deterioration of the situation with regard to safety of lives at sea and protection of the marine environment. Once this is ensured, the owner, manager and shipmaster of the affected Pakistan-registered ships should alert MMD of the incident immediately or at the latest, within 2 hours. Alerting MMD of the incident in a timely manner is paramount for Pakistan as the Flag Administration of Pakistan-registered ships for information sharing with other agencies.

4. This initial reporting to alert MMD on an immediate basis can take place before completing the detailed incident reporting format as mentioned in paragraphs 5 or 8 of this Shipping Circular. MMD can be informed of this initial alert, either in writing via emails to the

following addresses: or verbally over the phone via number +92-21-99263014. The initial report should be in the following format:

1. Type of incident (collision, grounding, fire, hull breach, death/serious injuries to any person, work accident, etc)	
2. Pollution to environment (if any) (pollutant-type & amount spilled)	
3. Date and time (in local time and time zone)	
4. Location of incident (Lat, Long, etc.)	
5. Injuries (number and severity) and/or damage (location & severity) and/or pollution (pollutant-type & amount spilled)	
6. Current status of incident (e.g. under control/mitigation ongoing).	

Detailed Reporting of Incidents after Initial Alert

5. Owners, managers and Masters of Pakistan flag-ships are also reminded to submit the marine casualty or marine incident using the form (Annex A) to the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department; 24 hours in accordance with the provisions of Section 470(2) & 470(3) of the Merchant Shipping Ordinance. Failure to comply with this section without reasonable cause is an offence which carries a penalty of upto Rs. 10,000 fine. The form (Annex A) will assist the owners and masters in providing the relevant information required for MMD to determine the cause of the accident and to conduct follow up investigations, if required. The completed report can be sent to MMD via email: info@mercantilemarine.gov.pk.

6. In relation to the detailed reporting requirement, owners, managers and shipmasters may like to note that the office of MMD or the Directorate General Ports & Shipping may, for the purpose of conducting post-accident investigations:

- i) board and inspect the ship;
- ii) require books, certificates and documents to be produced;
- iii) muster the crew and passengers and require them to answer questions; and
- iv) require the ship to be taken into a dock for hull surveys

7. For the purpose of administration of compensation to seafarers (in terms of Section 163 & 175 of MSO 2001) employers are reminded to report marine casualty or marine incident that result in loss of life or serious injuries to Government Shipping Office (e-mail address: contact@shippingoffice.gov.pk) within 10 days of an occurrence. A serious injury/condition is defined as one that renders the seafarer unfit to work for more than 3 consecutive days or hospitalised for at least 24 hours, commencing within 7 days from the day when the injury/condition was suffered.

Detailed Reporting of Security-related Incidents after Initial Alerts

8. Follow-up reporting of security-related incidents involving Pakistan-registered ships should be made by completing the Form (Annex B) and sent to Director General, Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) via email: hqmsa@cyber.net.pk and fax: +92-21-99214625 as well as MMD via email: info@mercantilemarine.gov.pk. And fax: +92-21-99263015 within 24hours of the occurrence of the security-related incident. In the event of a security-related incident requiring urgent assistance, Owners, managers and shipmasters may wish to call Tel No. +92-21-99214624. Please note that this number is dedicated for emergency purposes.



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