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Circular Letter No.3645
20 May 2016

To: All IMO Members and Parties to the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966

Subject: **Amendments to the International Code on Intact Stability, 2008 (2008 IS Code)**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-sixth session (11 to 20 May 2016) approved draft amendments to the International Code on Intact Stability, 2008 (2008 IS Code) for circulation with a view to adoption at its ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016).

2 The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, in accordance with paragraph 2(a) of article VI of the Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (1988 Load Lines Protocol), as amended, the text of the aforementioned proposed amendments to the 2008 IS Code, as set out in the annex, for consideration with the view to adoption by the Committee at its ninety-seventh session, in accordance with paragraph 2(d) of article VI of the 1988 Load Lines Protocol.

ANNEX

DRAFT AMENDMENTS¹ TO THE INTERNATIONAL CODE ON INTACT STABILITY, 2008 (2008 IS Code)

INTRODUCTION

1 Purpose

1 The chapeau of paragraph 1.2 is replaced with the following:

"1.2 Unless otherwise stated, this Code contains intact stability criteria applicable to ships and other marine vehicles of 24 m in length and above, as listed below. The Code also provides intact stability criteria applicable to the same ships and marine vehicles when engaged in certain operations:"

2 In paragraph 1.2, new subparagraphs .7, .8 and .9 are inserted as follows:

".7 ships engaged in anchor handling operations;

.8 ships engaged in harbour, coastal or ocean-going towing operations and escort operations;

.9 ships engaged in lifting operations;"

and the remaining subparagraphs are renumbered accordingly.

2 Definitions

3 New paragraphs 2.27 to 2.31 are inserted as follows:

"2.27 *Ship engaged in anchor handling operations* means a ship engaged in operations with deployment, recovering and repositioning of anchors and the associated mooring lines of rigs or other vessels. Forces associated with anchor handling are generally associated with the winch line pull and may include vertical, transverse, and longitudinal forces applied at the towing point and over the stern roller.

2.28 *Ship engaged in harbour towing* means a ship engaged in an operation intended for assisting ships or other floating structures within sheltered waters, normally while entering or leaving port and during berthing or unberthing operations.

2.29 *Ship engaged in coastal or ocean-going towing* means a ship engaged in an operation intended for assisting ships or other floating structures outside sheltered waters in which the forces associated with towing are often a function of the ship's bollard pull.*

* Refer to the *Guidelines for safe ocean towing* (MSC/Circ.884).

¹ Taking into account the decision of MSC 96 (paragraph 3.46 of MSC 96/25), it should be noted that the draft amendments to the Code regarding anchor handling operations have been previously circulated under Circular Letter No.3599, dated 22 October 2015, but reproduced as a consolidated text.

2.30 *Ship engaged in lifting operation* means a ship engaged in an operation involving the raising or lowering of objects using vertical force by means of winches, cranes, a-frames or other lifting devices.**

2.31 *Ship engaged in escort operation* means a ship specifically engaged in steering, braking and otherwise controlling of the assisted ship during ordinary or emergency maneuvering, whereby the steering and braking forces are generated by the hydrodynamic forces acting on the hull and appendages and the thrust forces exerted by the propulsion units (see also figure 1).

** Fishing vessels should not be included in the definition of lifting operations. Reference is made to part B, paragraphs 2.1.2.2 and 2.1.2.8. For anchor handling operations reference is made to section 2.7."

PART A MANDATORY CRITERIA

4 At the beginning of chapter 2, a footnote is added as follows:

"Chapter 2 – General criteria"

* Paragraphs 3.4.1.8, 3.4.1.9, 3.6.4 and 3.6.5 in part B should only be considered as recommendations."
