

Authorization of Recognized Security Organizations (RSO) to issue International Ship Security Certificates (ISSC)

For the purpose of approving SSP and issuing ISSC to Hong Kong registered ships, Marine Department has decided to authorize classification societies, which are already Recognized Organizations for conducting statutory survey and certification functions on behalf of the Hong Kong Administration, as RSO provided they can meet the criteria as stipulated in Part B of the ISPS Code. To verify the capability of individual classification society in discharging its duties as RSO, Marine Department has decided to split the authorization of RSO into stages as follows:-

- .1 Provisional authorization will be granted to a classification society applying to become a RSO provided that its submitted information can show that it is capable to meet the criteria as set out in Section 4.5 of Part B of the ISPS Code;
- .2 Subsequent to the provisional authorization, the classification society can start the process of reviewing and approving SSP for Hong Kong registered ships, and to arrange with companies for conducting shipboard verifications;
- .3 Final authorization will be granted after confirming that the training of personnel, the SSP approval process and the shipboard verification conducted by the classification society are found satisfactory, and that it has established the necessary procedural requirements and system for discharging the work of a RSO; and
- .4 Upon final authorization, the respective RSO can then proceed with issuing ISSC to the ships which have been verified to comply with the SOLAS and ISPS Code requirements.

2. At present, the following RSO are authorized to carry out statutory surveys and issue International Ship Security Certificates for Hong Kong registered cargo ships:-

- (i) American Bureau of Shipping (ABS);
- (ii) Bureau Veritas (BV);
- (iii) China Classification Society (CCS);
- (iv) DNV GL (DNV GL);
- (v) Korean Register of Shipping (KR);
- (vi) Lloyd's Register (LR);
- (vii) Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NK); and
- (viii) RINA S.p.A. (RINA).