



REGISTRATION OF OILRIGS AND OTHER OFFSHORE INDUSTRY MOBILE UNITS WITH THE SINGAPORE REGISTRY OF SHIPS (SRS) MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) ACT 2004.

SC No. 6 of 2005

25-01-2005

Applicable to: This circular should be brought to the attention to all Singapore ship owners.

This is to bring to your attention, the coming into operation on 25 January 2005 of Section 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act 2004 (the "Amendment Act"), which amends the Merchant Shipping Act, Cap. 179 (the "MSA") as set out in this Circular. See [Annex A1](#) for the complete text of the Amendment Act. The sections relating to Singapore's accession to the 1976 Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976 (LLMC 76) will come into operation on 1 May 2005 and will be accompanied by a separate circular.

2. Section 2 of the Amendment Act amends the definition of a "ship" found under Part I, Section 2 of the MSA. The definition has been broadened to include "an offshore industry mobile unit". Following the amendment, the SRS would allow the registration of oilrigs that are not involved in the actual production stage. Shipowners' attention is drawn to the definition of the type of offshore industry mobile units as spelt out in Section 2 of the Amendment Act, as follows:

"(a) a vessel that is used or intended for use in exploring or exploiting the natural resources of the subsoil of any seabed, or in any operation or activity associated with or incidental thereto, by drilling the seabed or its subsoil, or by obtaining substantial quantities of material from the seabed or its subsoil, with equipment that is on or forms part of the vessel; and

(b) a barge or like vessel fitted with living quarters for more than 12 persons and used or intended for use in connection with the construction, maintenance or repair of any fixed structure used or intended for use in exploring or exploiting the natural resources of the subsoil of any seabed, or in any operation or activity associated with or incidental thereto."

3. Paragraph 2(a) of Section 2 of the Amendment Act refers to primarily oilrigs in the form of jack-ups, semi-submersibles and submersibles. Paragraph 2(b) of Section 2 of the Amendment Act refers to accommodation barges and tenders that are used for servicing these oilrigs.

4. Shipowners' attention is drawn to the following set of criteria when making application to register oilrigs and other offshore industry mobile units with the SRS:

(a) All mobile offshore industry units would have to comply with the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) Code promulgated by the IMO.

(b) Companies that apply for registration of these units would have to provide technical information on the safety records of their company, in particular the number of incidents on board their units resulting in casualties (loss of life).

(c) Structures that are more than 17 years of age would have to provide attestation reports from the classification society stating categorically that there are no condition of class or recommendations for the hull and machinery of the unit.

5. Any queries relating to this circular should be directed to Mr Wong Kai Cheong at Tel: 6375 6236

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