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**(Netherlands) Shipping
Inspectorate**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

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The Government of the Netherlands embraces the principle of using electronic publications to reduce environmental burden and acknowledges the benefits of the use of electronic versions of required legislative frameworks with regard to e.g. updating and searchability.

The Netherlands Shipping Inspectorate (NSI) herewith confirms that the product **Reg4Ships** may be used on board as an equivalent to the hard copy publications of the regulatory framework, as stipulated in:

- MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.2, as amended, *IMO requirements on carriage of publications on board ships*;
- ISM Code, *required publications specifically mentioned in the SMS manual*;
- ILO instruments;
- Article 347 of the Netherlands' Commercial Code, *the requirement of the Netherlands' legislation on board the vessel*.

The abovementioned is a minimum, and not limited to, list so the factual framework may be extended by any publications, guidance or other relevant information depending on e.g. ship type and trade area.

The publications may be carried in the form of electronic media in lieu of hard copies, under the conditions that:

- Acceptable publications in electronic form should be those issued by IMO or an Administration or a body authorized by an Administration to ensure correctness of their contents and to safeguard against illegal copying. A medium could either contain a publication or as many publications as possible;
- In any case, the media should be treated in accordance with the document control procedures in the ship's SMS including procedures for timely update and the identification of availability of any (part of) publication necessary for securing the critical processes of the operation of the ship;
- The publications for emergency use, i.e. the International Code of Signals, IAMSAR Manual and any other publication or document deemed crucial for emergency use by the company and vessel as well as medical publications, shall always be available in the form of hard copies, bearing in mind that such publications need to be readily available for use in case of emergency or medical situation without being restricted to a specific place and by the availability of a computer;
- All publications on board ships, regardless of format, should be adequate and up to date.

Special attention is to be paid to the [Guidance for the carriage of publications on board ships flying the flag of the Netherlands](#) with regards to further details on publications and readiness of emergency and medical publications.

Above-mentioned requirements are applicable for the publications mentioned. The carriage requirements in an electronic format for **nautical publications**, as

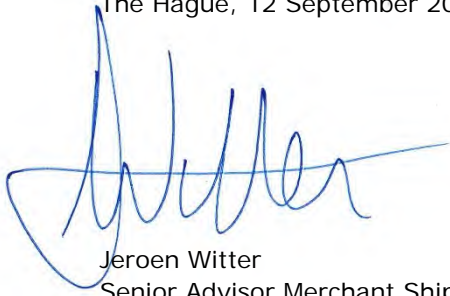
mentioned in SOLAS V/2.2, V/19.2.1.4, V/19.2.1.5, V/27, are stipulated in [Information to Shipping no. 5](#).

This letter may be kept on board and made available for interested Port State Control Authorities, Classification Societies and other relevant parties.

NSI would like to reiterate paragraph 2 of MSC-MEPC.2/Circ.2, that no deficiency or non-conformity should be filed by port State control authorities and/or ISM auditors against ships not carrying on board publications which are not expressly required by IMO instruments.

For further information, NSI may be contacted through the contact details provided.

The Hague, 12 September 2008



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