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MSC-MEPC.5/Circ.6
6 August 2009

**GUIDANCE ON THE TIMING OF REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CERTIFICATES
BY THE CERTIFICATES ISSUED AFTER THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF
AMENDMENTS TO CERTIFICATES IN IMO INSTRUMENTS**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-sixth session (27 May to 5 June 2009) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its fifty-ninth session (13 to 17 July 2009) reviewed the matter of the replacement of existing certificates by the certificates issued after the entry into force of amendments to certificates in IMO instruments.

2 In conducting such a review, both Committees noted that a comparable case was already addressed by the Marine Environment Protection Committee at its fifty-fourth session (20 to 24 March 2006). The MEPC then approved MEPC.1/Circ.513 on Validity of the IOPP Certificate and Supplements issued under the current MARPOL Annex I after 1 January 2007.

3 Both Committees agreed to approve the following guidance with regard to the replacement of existing certificates by the certificates issued after the entry into force of amendments to certificates in all IMO instruments (such as the Load Lines Convention, the SOLAS Convention and the MARPOL Conventions and codes made mandatory under these Conventions):

- .1 in cases where the ship has not to comply with new requirements, the certificate (and its supplement, if any) is not re-issued until its expiry;
- .2 in cases where the ship has to comply with new requirements, the certificate (and its supplement, if any) is re-issued at the opportunity of the survey specified with the new requirement occurring after the date of entry into force of the amendments; and
- .3 where a ship is subjected to a modification or conversion which involves an additional survey, the certificate (and its supplement, if any) is re-issued.

4 Member Governments and Parties to the IMO Conventions are invited to note the above and to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned, in particular port State control officers under their jurisdiction.