



## **MERCHANT SHIPPING NOTICE**

*Issued by the Directorate of Merchant Shipping Division, Sri Lanka*

MSN 11-2010

### **NOTICE TO SHIP OWNERS, MANAGERS, OPERATORS, SHIPPING AGENTS, MANNING AGENTS AND MASTERS**

Shipping is a vital industry, carrying about 97 percent of world trade. Modern merchant shipping is a specialized, complex operation that is governed by comprehensive rules and regulations developed by national and international authorities. Vessels have increased in number and become faster, more sophisticated and expensive.

However, injury and fatality statistics indicate that shipping remains a high-risk industry. One of the key concerns in the effort to achieve higher safety standards aboard ships is the qualification of crew members. In many cases, ship safety is closely related to human error.

Investigations of marine disasters have often identified poor standards and training of seafarers as key contributing factors. Therefore, it is very important to have a feedback system on Sri Lankan seafarers to evaluate their performances and to improve training process.

With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, the Director General of Merchant Shipping request all Sri Lankan ship owners, ship managers, ship operators, Masters, shipping agents and recruiting agents to provide information on incompetency on the part of the seafarers which may cause stranding or damage to any ship or injury to fellow crewmembers, loss of life or any near misses reported to the Directorate of Merchant Shipping in order to investigate the incidents. Investigators will, where appropriate, make recommendations to avoid recurrence and improve future training standards for seafarers.

1<sup>st</sup> August 2010

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