



**GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE GENERAL PORTS & SHIPPING

Karachi, 09 April' 2025

No.3 (3)/2021-CNS

Circular No. 005/2025 (N)

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Notice to all ship owners, Operators, Masters, Officers, Ratings, and those concerned with maritime Trade

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Subject: Implementation of the Hong Kong Convention and Basel Convention with Respect to Trans-boundary Movement of Ships Intended for Recycling

Reference:

- i. 2009 Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.
- ii. Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.
- iii. International Maritime Organization (IMO) HKSRC.2/Circ.1 dated 1 November 2024.

1. Purpose:

This Merchant Shipping Notice is issued to inform shipowners, ship managers, operators, agents, and masters of Pakistani-flagged ships, as well as Recognized Organizations (ROs), of the implementation approach Pakistan will adopt regarding the Hong Kong Convention (HKC) and Basel Convention with respect to trans-boundary movement of ships intended for recycling. The notice also provides guidance on compliance with upcoming certification requirements in light of the HKC entering into force on 26 June 2025.

2. Application:

This notice applies to all Pakistani-flagged vessels that fall within the scope of Article 3 of the Hong Kong Convention, as well as to all stakeholders involved in the recycling process of these vessels, including ship recycling facilities.

3. Background:

The Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC) was adopted in May 2009 with the aim to address environmental, health, and safety issues around ship recycling. The Convention will enter into force on 26 June 2025.

Pakistan has ratified both the Hong Kong Convention and the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, but has not signed the Basel Ban Amendment.

The Marine Environment Protection Committee, at its eighty-second session (30 September to 4 October 2024), approved the Provisional guidance on the implementation of the Hong Kong and Basel Conventions with respect to the trans-boundary movement of ships intended for recycling (HKSRC.2/Circ.1).

4. Commitment:

The Directorate General of Ports and Shipping (DGPS) is committed to ensuring that all maritime stakeholders within Pakistan comply with the latest international maritime regulations regarding ship recycling. This notice serves as guidance for the implementation of the Hong Kong Convention and clarifies Pakistan's position on the relationship between the Hong Kong and Basel Conventions.

5. Specific Requirements Under the Hong Kong Convention:

From 26 June 2025, the following requirements will apply:

I. New Ships: All new ships (as defined below) will be required to be delivered with an approved Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) (Part I only) developed in accordance with MEPC.379(80) and corresponding valid International Certificate on Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IC) onboard.

New ships means a ship:

- For which the building contract is placed on or after 26 June 2025; or
- In the absence of a building contract, the keel of which is laid, or which is at a similar stage of construction on or after 26 December 2025; or
- The delivery of which is on or after 26 June 2027.

II. Existing Ships: No later than 25 June 2030 (or before going for recycling if this is earlier), all existing ships will be required to have an approved IHM (Parts I, II & III), developed in accordance with MEPC.379(80), and hold a corresponding valid International Certificate on Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IC) onboard.

III. Ships Going for Recycling: From 26 June 2025, ships going for recycling will need to have a valid International Ready for Recycling Certificate (RFRC) issued.

6. Implementation of Hong Kong and Basel Conventions:

In accordance with the guidance provided in HKSRC.2/Circ.1, and as a State that is party to both the Hong Kong Convention and the Basel Convention (without having expressed consent to be bound by the Ban Amendment), Pakistan hereby establishes the following approach:

I. Notification to Basel Convention Secretariat: Pakistan will notify the Basel Convention Secretariat in accordance with Article 11 of the Basel Convention that Pakistan will apply the Hong Kong Convention's requirements in respect of trans-boundary movements of ships intended to be recycled at ship recycling facilities authorized in accordance with the Hong Kong Convention and situated under the jurisdiction of a Party to the Hong Kong Convention.

II. Certification Transition: All existing Statements of Compliance (SOC) to the Hong Kong Convention will be replaced with International Certificates (IC) no later than the first harmonized Renewal Surveys on or after 26 June 2025, or by 25 June 2030 at the latest (or before going for recycling if this occurs earlier).

III. Recycling Facility Requirements: Ships flagged with Pakistan may be recycled at any ship recycling facility that has been properly authorized in accordance with the Hong Kong Convention and is situated within the jurisdiction of a Party to the Hong Kong Convention.

7. Responsibilities:

I. Recognized Organizations (ROs): ROs authorized by DGPS shall:

- Incorporate the Hong Kong Convention requirements into their processes
- Issue the appropriate certificates as per the timeline mentioned above
- Conduct surveys and inspections as required under the Convention
- Provide regular updates to DGPS on certification status of Pakistani-flagged vessels

II. Shipowners, Operators, and Managers: These stakeholders shall:

- Ensure timely development of IHM for their vessels
- Arrange for necessary surveys to obtain the required certification
- Comply with all requirements when intending to recycle a vessel

III. DGPS: As the maritime administration, DGPS will:

- Monitor implementation through authorized ROs
- Maintain records of all certificates issued
- Liaise with the Basel Convention Secretariat
- Report implementation experiences to the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee

8. Guidance and Implementation:

The DGPS issues this notice to guide all stakeholders on the implementation approach. It is imperative that shipowners, managers, and operators take the necessary actions to ensure that their vessels comply with the certification requirements by the specified deadlines.

9. Conclusion:

All relevant parties are advised to comply with these requirements to ensure environmental protection, proper ship recycling practices, and avoid any legal or operational complications. This notice is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

This Circular is issued with the approval of Director General Port & shipping, Karachi



(Capt. Arif Jawaaid)
Chief Nautical Surveyor

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