



MUMBAI PORT TRUST

PORT DEPARTMENT

KEEPING A SAFE ANCHOR WATCH

No. DC/C-SH/2790

05.06.2007

To,

- 1) MANSA
- 2) All Port Users
- 3) Ship Agents
- 4) Ship Owners/Charterers

C I R C U L A R

Sub : Keeping a safe anchor watch.

Apart from the normal requirement of the safe practice of seamanship requiring ships to keep a proper anchor watch when vessels are at anchor to ensure safety of the vessel, the environment and other vessels in the vicinity, there are also a number of circulars issued by both the I.M.O. and the Port Authorities on this subject and the need for strict adherence to these requirements. An undertaking to this effect is also taken from the agents on behalf of vessels Master before granting entry into the MbPT anchorages to any vessel.

Yet, there are numerous occasions when it has been found that ships within the anchorages of MbPT are not keeping a safe and proper anchorage watch even to the extent that the ships are not even aware when they are dragging their own anchor and can not even be raised on the V.H.F. There have been many occasions when a special launch has had to be sent to a ship only to establish contact.

The dangers to human life, the environment, the Port, other ships in the

vicinity and not least, the concerned ship itself arising out of such dereliction of duty can not be overemphasized. This issue assumes much greater importance during the monsoon season.

Attention is drawn to the contents of IMO Circular STCW.7/Circ 14 dated 24.05.2004 together with the Annexure on "Guidance for Masters on keeping a safe Anchor Watch".

All concerned are informed that the requirement to keep a safe and efficient anchor watch _must be strictly adhered to at all times and any breach of this requirement would need to be dealt with most seriously and may result in the vessel being denied permission to remain in the Port.

DEPUTY CONSERVATOR