



## THE HONG KONG SHIPOWNERS ASSOCIATION LTD.

12th Floor, Queen's Centre, 58 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.  
Phone : (852) 2520-0206 Fax : (852) 2529-8246 email : hksoa@hksoa.org

### Press Release

For immediate release

#### **IACS Chairman stresses importance of industry cooperation in development of common rules.**

At a lunch held yesterday with the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, Mr. Bernard Anne, Chairman of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), described the progress being made towards the development of Common Structural Rules for Tankers and Bulk Carriers. The reason for the recently announced 6 month delay in the period for comments on the draft Rules, said Mr. Anne, was to encourage a full and transparent exchange of views with the industry. "Cooperation with the industry is essential", he said.

The Committee was told that the two IACS project teams had so far received more than 3,000 contributions, which would all be assessed and taken into account in the further development of the Common Rules. The six month delay will also permit IACS to assess the outcome of the discussion on Goal Based Standards that will take place at the meeting of IMO's Marine Safety Committee (MSC) that will be meeting in December.

Mr. Anne also said that an update on the progress of harmonization between the rules for Tankers and Bulk Carriers, together with a comparison between the existing and Common Rules, will be given to the Tripartite Group meeting to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November in Yokohama, Japan.

Hong Kong  
4<sup>th</sup> November 2004

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#### *Editor's Note:*

*Dedicated to safe ships and clean seas, the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) makes a unique contribution to maritime safety and regulation through technical support, compliance verification and research and development. More than 90% of the world's cargo carrying tonnage is covered by the classification design, construction and through-life compliance Rules and standards set by the ten Member Societies and two Associates of IACS. [www.iacs.org.uk](http://www.iacs.org.uk)*

*The Hong Kong Shipowners Association, founded in 1957, represents owners, managers and agents of about 1,100 ships totalling 61.5 million tonnes deadweight, as well as other maritime services companies resident in Hong Kong. For more information, visit [www.hksoa.org](http://www.hksoa.org)*