

Shipping advised to comply with relevant NAVAREA warnings off Japan

Briefing: 13, March 24, 2011

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued a circular letter advising shipmasters to comply with the latest navigational warnings issued by the NAVAREA XI Coordinator (Japan), in the wake of damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan.

The circular letter notes that the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan has confirmed that, at present, all international sea ports not damaged by the 11 March earthquake, and the resulting tsunami, operate normally and, based on the results of measurements of radiation levels by local governments, no health risk has been detected around the ports.

NAVAREA warnings are disseminated by the designated NAVAREA coordinators and can also be downloaded by following the relevant links from <http://weather.gmdss.org/navareas.html>, in particular:

NAVAREA XI Japan <http://www1.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/jhd-E.html>

NAVAREA XII United States <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>

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IMO – the International Maritime Organization – is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.
Web site: www.imo.org

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To: All IMO Members
United Nations and Specialized Agencies
Intergovernmental Organizations
Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status
Liberation Movements

Subject: **Navigation in the sea area surrounding Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami of 11 March 2011**

1 Background

1.1 In the wake of the earthquake and tsunami off the eastern coast of Japan on 11 March 2011 and the damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan, a joint press briefing was issued (on 18 and 20 March 2011) by the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization stating that latest information showed that international flights and maritime operations can continue normally into and out of Japan's major airports and sea ports, excluding those damaged by the earthquake and tsunami.

1.2 While there is currently no medical basis for imposing restrictions, the United Nations organizations are monitoring the situation closely and will advise of any changes.

1.3 Screening for radiation of international passengers from Japan is not considered necessary at this time. Currently available information indicates that increased levels have been detected at some airports, but these do not represent any health risk.

1.4 The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan confirmed that all international sea ports not damaged by the earthquake and tsunami operate normally and no health risk is detected around the ports, based on the results of measurements of radiation levels by local governments.

1.5 Further information is available on the website of the World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/en/>.

2 NAVAREA warnings

2.1 NAVAREA warnings including designated dangerous area around the Plant have been issued by the NAVAREA XI Coordinator (Japan) and also other precautionary warnings have been issued by other NAVAREA Coordinators.

3 Action required

3.1 Member Governments and organizations are invited to bring this circular to the attention of shipowners and shipmasters and advise them to comply with the latest navigational warnings issued by the NAVAREA XI Coordinator (Japan), taking into account further precautionary advice issued by other NAVAREA Coordinators, in the wake of the damage to the Plant.
