



Singapore Shipping Association

Ref: SSA/041/10/EML

5 March 2010

To: All SSA members

SSA CIRCULARS

The Singapore Shipping Association keeps all its **members** updated on current developments in the shipping industry through the dissemination of regular SSA Circulars.

Whilst many such circulars concern matters of general interest to the industry, on occasion, SSA is forwarded **privileged, non-commercial information** by various agencies that have established close working relationships with the Association for dissemination to its members. Due to their sensitive nature, however, such privileged information is for dissemination solely to SSA Members only, and may sometimes be marked "*Restricted*" or "*Private or Confidential*" by the source agency.

Whilst the information contained in said circulars may have an impact on the shipping industry as a whole, the Singapore Shipping Association can only disseminate privileged non-commercial information to its members and NOT to the industry as a whole without a clear and explicit mandate from the source agency.

These **restricted or confidential circulars are sent directly to SSA members only** and not posted on the SSA website.

In this respect, we will greatly appreciate it if all SSA members could respect that **such classified circulars or information should not be made available to any third parties who are not members of SSA**, in particular the news media. Neither are SSA members allowed to publish, reproduce or quote the contents of such classified circulars or information without the explicit prior approval of the Association.

If there is any **OFFICIAL INFORMATION** which the Association is cleared to release to the news media, it will be done so through the medium of official Press Releases that are issued directly to the media and posted on the Association's web-site for public access.

The Association was very distressed to discover that, after issuing SSA circular ref: SSA/037/10/EML on 4 March 2010, attaching with it an advisory from the Information Fusion Center (IFC) concerning a security alert for the Strait of Malacca, a SSA member promptly forwarded the information to at least one news agency, which promptly published an article misquoting the Singapore Shipping Association as the source of the security alert.

Whilst the article was eventually corrected, **the initial release of the incorrect article was picked up, reproduced and in many cases sensationalized by the international news media.**

In view of the possible repercussions arising from publication of such privileged information, the Singapore Shipping Association **urges all SSA members to respect the confidentiality of information forwarded by the Association** and not simply pass on to any third parties outside the confine of their companies.

Your kind cooperation on this matter is very much appreciated.

DANIEL TAN
Executive Director