



INDUSTRIES  
& ENVIRONMENT

# HONG KONG CONVENTION & EU SHIP RECYCLING REGULATION COMPLIANCE

A safe and healthy environment is essential for a productive, compliant maritime operation. Onboard health and safety is coming under increased scrutiny from national, European and global laws and regulations. The Hong Kong Convention enters into force 24 months after the ratification conditions are met, which will be 26 June 2025. EU took action earlier resulting in the framework of EU Ship Recycling Regulation (EU SRR), entered into force on 30 December 2013 and has been fully applicable since 31 December 2020.

The EU SRR fully adopted the requirements of the HKC as well as some additional requirements. Both are placing increasing demands on maritime operators to give attention to health and safety considerations on board. An Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) plays a vital role.

## Best Practice Standard

IHM is already seen as a best practice standard with acknowledged benefits:

- Identifies all hazardous substances on board, including mercury, leaded paint, chromium-6 or polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's).
- Contributes to a safe workplace for your employees.
- Ensures that the ship can be dismantled safely, with low risks for people and environment.
- Provides your company a positive, green image.
- Makes sure the ship is compliant to current and future regulations, such as SOLAS and MARPOL.
- Provides tools to take further actions, promoting the safety, usability and durability of ships.
- Ensures a strong position in liability issues.
- Ensures higher resale values for ships.

## Legal Framework

### Safety First

Making the shipping industry as safe as possible is the main priority of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the specialized maritime agency of the United Nations. IHM is an integral part of the Hong Kong Convention, approved by the IMO in 2009 which enters into force on 26 June 2025.

Every ship of 500GT and above must have a certified Inventory of all hazardous materials on board. The convention aims to ensure that ships can be dismantled safely in approved Ship Recycling Facilities (SRFs), with minimal risks to people or environment.

## Take into Account

The responsibility of the IHM lies indirectly with the ship or fleet owner, or rather more directly with the ship's technical management. New Builds regardless of their flag are delivered with an approved IHM according to both the EU SRR and HKC.

Ships in service shall comply with HKC by 26 June 2030 and hold an approved IHM or before in case they are going to be dismantled earlier.

The maintenance of the IHM is becoming important with the entry into force of the HKC, as Port State Control is expected to conduct IHM inspections globally.

**SAFER  
GREENER  
SMARTER**

**SGS**



Ensure a safe and environmentally viable management of hazardous materials and the sustainable recycling of vessels.”



We are SGS – the world’s leading testing, inspection and certification company. We are recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. Our 96,000 employees operate a network of 2,600 offices and laboratories, working together to enable a better, safer and more interconnected world.

### Flexible, Fast and Independent

Flexible, fast and independent, our experts are certified to carry out IHM research and analyses. SGS is standby 24 hours a day. If necessary, our inspectors can fly over to your vessel and make sure the analysis will be carried out without delay for your fleet. The samples are analyzed in our own laboratory, meaning the results are available instantly.

### Supporting You in All Possible Ways

We can support the maritime sector across the full spectrum of environmental, safety and health related shipping issues. With our presence in all major ports around the world, our services are available whenever and wherever you need them.

### More Information

Our experts have extensive knowledge of the latest laws and regulations. We are eager to assist you with all your maritime questions. Please contact us for more information about our services or for advice.

### Contact us

[Marine.Services@sgs.com](mailto:Marine.Services@sgs.com)

WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

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