

## A Simple Guide on the Use of Loudhailers & Public Address (PA) Systems on Board of Vessels

### **Who Should Observe**

Any person who intends to

- use loudhailers and PA systems; or
- allow them to be used

on board of vessels should observe this guide.

### **The Problem**

Noise from hand-held loudhailers or mounted PA systems used on board of vessels has been causing considerable disturbances to nearby residents, especially during the night. Therefore, you should consider **not to use loudhailers and PA systems as far as practicable.**

### **Try Not to Use Loudhailers and PA Systems**

There are situations where you should strictly **avoid the use of loudhailers and PA systems**, such as for chatting or waking up workers on the other vessels. Very often than not, you can use other means of communication, such as

- walkie-talkies/pack sets with headphones; or
- mobile phones.

### **If You have to Use Loudhailers and PA Systems**

If there are **no alternatives** and you have to use loudhailers and PA systems for operational reasons, you should

- lower the volume as far as possible;
- close all doors to engine rooms or compartments to minimize the operational background noise to increase the intelligibility of the messages sent; and
- if appropriate, consider to use smaller loudspeakers for PA systems and locate them closer to the receivers.

### **The Legislative Control**

If you makes or causes to be made any noise at night on a vessel which is a source of annoyance to any person, you will commit an offence under the Noise Control Ordinance and will be liable to a fine of \$10,000.