

**L.N. 176 of 2024**

**Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Fees and Charges)  
(Amendment) Regulation 2024**

(Made by the Chief Executive in Council under section 90 of the  
Merchant Shipping (Registration) Ordinance (Cap. 415))

**1. Commencement**

This Regulation comes into operation on 14 February 2025.

**2. Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Fees and Charges)  
Regulations amended**

The Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Fees and Charges)  
Regulations (Cap. 415 sub. leg. A) are amended as set out in  
sections 3 to 7.

**3. Regulation 2 amended (interpretation)**

Regulation 2—

**Repeal the definition of *office hours***

**Substitute**

“*office hours* (辦公時間) means the hours between  
8:30 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. on Monday to Friday,  
excluding general holidays;”.

**4. Regulation 4 amended (annual tonnage charges)**

(1) Regulation 4(1), (2), (2A), (2C) and (3), English text—

**Repeal**

“shall be”

**Substitute**

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“is”.

(2) Regulation 4(5)—

**Repeal**

“The”

**Substitute**

“Subject to regulation 4A, the”.

**5. Regulation 4A added**

After regulation 4—

**Add**

**“4A. Refund of registration fees and annual tonnage charges in certain block registration cases**

(1) The Registrar may, on an application made in accordance with subregulation (4), refund the following fees and charges paid in respect of an eligible ship (*subject ship*)—

(a) if the subject ship is provisionally registered after the application is made—

(i) the fees specified in items 2 and 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule; and

(ii) the tonnage charge under regulation 4(3) and the annual tonnage charge specified in item 3 of Part 3 of the Schedule; or

(b) in any other case—

(i) the fee specified in item 1 of Part 1 of the Schedule; and

(ii) the annual tonnage charge specified in item 1 of Part 3 of the Schedule for the first year of registration of the subject ship.

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- (2) However, the Registrar must not refund any fees or charges in respect of the subject ship unless all the conditions specified in subregulation (5) are met.
- (3) Also, the Registrar must not refund any fees or charges in respect of the subject ship if any refund has been made in respect of the subject ship under this regulation.
- (4) An application under subregulation (1) must—
  - (a) specify the subject ship and at least one other eligible ship (*specified ship*) for the purpose of the application;
  - (b) be made before the earliest date of registration of those ships (*first registration date*);
  - (c) be made by a person who is—
    - (i) the owner of at least one of those ships;
    - (ii) engaged in the business of managing at least one of those ships; or
    - (iii) acting as an agent for at least one of those ships;
  - (d) contain a declaration that the owner of each of those ships has consented to the making of the application; and
  - (e) be made to the Registrar in a form specified by the Registrar.
- (5) The conditions specified for subregulation (2) are that—

- (a) the subject ship is registered or provisionally registered at any time during the period of 24 months beginning on the first registration date (*specified period*), and the post-delivery period of the ship is not more than 10 years;
  - (b) the subject ship has, since the date on which it is registered, remained registered for a period of not less than 12 consecutive months;
  - (c) the specified ship (or at least one specified ship) is registered or provisionally registered at any time during the specified period, and the post-delivery period of the ship is not more than 10 years; and
  - (d) the accumulated gross tonnage of the subject ship and all or any of the specified ships that meet the condition under paragraph (c) is not less than 50 000 tons.
- (6) A refund under subregulation (1) in respect of a subject ship is to be made to the owner of the subject ship at the time of refund.
- (7) However, if the registration of the subject ship is closed under Part VII of the Ordinance after the conditions specified in subregulation (5) are met, the refund is to be made to the owner of the subject ship immediately before the closure.
- (8) In this regulation—
- date of registration* (註冊日期), in relation to a ship specified in an application under subregulation (1), means—
- (a) if the ship is provisionally registered after the application is made—the date on which the ship is provisionally registered;

(b) in any other case—the date on which the ship is registered;

*eligible ship* (合資格船舶) means a ship that is not registered or provisionally registered at any time during the period—

(a) beginning on the date on which the Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Fees and Charges) (Amendment) Regulation 2024 comes into operation; and

(b) ending immediately before the date of registration of the ship;

*post-delivery period* (交付後期間), in relation to a ship specified in an application under subregulation (1), means the period beginning on the date of delivery of the ship and ending on the date of registration of the ship after the application is made.”.

**6. Regulation 8 amended (fees for services outside office hours)**

(1) Regulation 8(1), English text—

**Repeal**

“shall be”

**Substitute**

“is”.

(2) Regulation 8(1)—

**Repeal**

“9 a.m.”

**Substitute**

“8:30 a.m.”.

(3) Regulation 8(1)—

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**Repeal**

“5 p.m.”

**Substitute**

“5:45 p.m.”.

- (4) Regulation 8(1)—

**Repeal**

“(afternoon)”.

- (5) Regulation 8(2), English text—

**Repeal**

“shall be”

**Substitute**

“is”.

**7. Schedule amended**

The Schedule—

**Repeal**

“[regs. 3, 4”

**Substitute**

“[regs. 3, 4, 4A”.

Carmen KONG  
Clerk to the Executive Council

COUNCIL CHAMBER

3 December 2024

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## Explanatory Note

This Regulation amends the Merchant Shipping (Registration) (Fees and Charges) Regulations (Cap. 415 sub. leg. A) (**Cap. 415A**) to implement the Block Registration Incentive Scheme under which certain registration fees and tonnage charges paid in respect of eligible ships may be refunded on application if the specified conditions are met.

2. This Regulation also makes miscellaneous amendments to certain provisions of Cap. 415A in view of the implementation of five-day week in government service.