

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Ref. T2-OSS/2.7

Circular letter No.3175
23 March 2011

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.
