

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 212/2023
(Navigational Warning & Related Information)

New Year Countdown Celebration

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the New Year Countdown Celebration which consists of a fireworks and pyrotechnic display will take place around midnight on the New Year's Eve, 31 December 2023 and last for about 12 minutes.

2. The fireworks will be discharged from 4 barges and 14 pontoons anchored off the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), and from 2 barges and 2 pontoons anchored off Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) respectively. The pyrotechnics will be discharged from the rooftops of 3 buildings on Hong Kong Island.

3. It is anticipated that a large number of spectator vessels will gather in the Central Harbour to view the display. Pursuant to Part 10A of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) Regulation (Cap. 548F) with regard to the Requirements Relating to Passenger Safety during Major Events at Sea, a Specified Area will be established in the Central Harbour.

4. The Specified Area comprising a Restricted Area and two Closed Areas is formed by the shoreline of both sides of the Victoria Harbour and straight lines joining the following co-ordinates (WGS 84 Datum) from (A) to (C) as the western boundary; and from (D) to (E) as the eastern boundary:

	Latitude	Longitude
(A)	22° 17.915'N	114° 09.490'E
(B)	22° 17.406'N	114° 09.267'E
(C)	22° 17.266'N	114° 09.227'E
(D)	22° 18.011'N	114° 11.368'E
(E)	22° 17.476'N	114° 11.541'E

5. Two Closed Areas, encompassing the craft anchored off HKCEC and TST to stage the aforesaid waterborne fireworks display, will be established with the following details:

Closed Area 1

(i) The area is formed by 4 straight lines joining the following positions (WGS 84 Datum):

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
(1)	22° 17.355'N	114° 09.946'E
(2)	22° 17.355'N	114° 10.787'E
(3)	22° 17.185'N	114° 10.787'E
(4)	22° 17.185'N	114° 09.946'E

(ii) The 4 barges (a) to (d) and 14 pontoons (e) to (r) for discharging fireworks will be anchored at the following positions (WGS 84 Datum):

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
(a)	22° 17.270'N	114° 10.048'E
(b)	22° 17.270'N	114° 10.255'E
(c)	22° 17.270'N	114° 10.478'E
(d)	22° 17.270'N	114° 10.685'E
(e)	22° 17.265'N	114° 10.130'E
(f)	22° 17.268'N	114° 10.158'E
(g)	22° 17.272'N	114° 10.186'E
(h)	22° 17.275'N	114° 10.214'E
(i)	22° 17.265'N	114° 10.296'E
(j)	22° 17.267'N	114° 10.324'E
(k)	22° 17.269'N	114° 10.352'E
(l)	22° 17.271'N	114° 10.380'E
(m)	22° 17.273'N	114° 10.408'E
(n)	22° 17.275'N	114° 10.436'E
(o)	22° 17.265'N	114° 10.519'E
(p)	22° 17.268'N	114° 10.547'E
(q)	22° 17.272'N	114° 10.575'E
(r)	22° 17.275'N	114° 10.603'E

Closed Area 2

- (iii) The area is formed by 4 straight lines joining the following positions (WGS 84 Datum):

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
(5)	22° 17.517'N	114° 10.070'E
(6)	22° 17.517'N	114° 10.366'E
(7)	22° 17.347'N	114° 10.366'E
(8)	22° 17.347'N	114° 10.070'E

- (iv) The 2 barges (u) (one without fireworks) and 2 pontoons (s) and (t) for discharging fireworks will be anchored at the following positions (WGS 84 Datum):

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
(s)	22° 17.442'N	114° 10.158'E
(t)	22° 17.442'N	114° 10.218'E
(u)	22° 17.442'N	114° 10.292'E

6. The barges and pontoons staying inside the Closed Areas are connected by wire ropes illuminated by LED lights. The Closed Area 1 and Closed Area 2 will be closed to all marine traffic except crafts directly involved in the fireworks display, Government launches and vessels with special permission from the Director of Marine (to be collectively called *excepted vessels*). The Closed Area 1 will be established from 1230 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0300 hours on 1 January 2024; and Closed Area 2 will be established from 2300 hours on 31 December 2023 to 0100 hours on 1 January 2024.

7. A Restricted Area will be established in the Central Harbour from 2300 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024 with the following details:

- (i) The Eastern Cordon Line (ECL) of the Restricted Area is a straight line joining the south extremity of MTR Hung Hom Freight Terminal Pier and the breakwater at Kellett Island, Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. The Western Cordon Line (WCL) of the Restricted Area is a straight line joining the southwest extremity of the Ocean Terminal and the Central Government Pier.

- (ii) No vessels, other than *excepted vessels*, will be allowed to enter or remain within the Restricted Area during the period from 2300 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024.

8. Other than the Closed Areas and the Restricted Area, spectator vessels are allowed to enter or remain in the remaining water areas of the Specified Area during the period from 2200 hours on 31 December 2023 to 0100 hours on 1 January 2024 (“specified period”). These vessels shall comply with the requirements of the marine traffic control measures with details given in the Annex to this Notice.

9. A drawing showing the Specified Area, Restricted Area, Cordon Lines and Closed Areas is attached to this Notice.

10. To prevent speeding and minimize head-on encounters of vessels after the fireworks and pyrotechnic display, the WCL and ECL of the Restricted Area will be lifted at stagger time, i.e. the WCL will be lifted at about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024 and the ECL will be lifted later depending on the traffic condition in the Central Harbour. It is anticipated that the Restricted Area will be completely lifted at about 0115 hours on 1 January 2024.

11. To facilitate landside crowd control, the public landing steps at Kowloon Public Pier will be closed from 2200 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024 (except No.4 and No.5 landing steps at Kowloon Public Pier will be closed from 2000 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024), while other public landing steps within the Restricted Area will be closed from 2230 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024.

12. Special marine traffic control measures for the New Year Countdown Celebration will be executed. All vessels should navigate with caution and pay attention to these measures given in the Annex to this Notice.

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Director of Marine

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

Date: 21 December 2023

File Ref: L/M. No. 918/23 in MD-HPS-F01-015-04B-002

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 212/2023

**Marine Traffic Control Measures
For the New Year Countdown Celebration**

Ferry Services

ALL SCHEDULED FERRY SERVICES IN THE CENTRAL HARBOUR WILL BE SUSPENDED from 2300 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0115 hours on 1 January 2024, except for those run by ferry vessels with special permission from the Director of Marine to continue services between 2300 hours and 2340 hours on 31 December 2023.

2. ALL ferry vessels permitted to continue services between 2300 hours and 2340 hours on 31 December 2023, must maintain a minimum safe passing distance of 250 metres from the fireworks firing barges. They should also be either secured to their berths or leave the Restricted Area before 2340 hours on 31 December 2023.
3. The Transport Department will detail the re-scheduling of ferry services in a separate notice.

Viewing Area

4. Spectator vessels gathering inside the Specified Area, other than the Restricted Area and the 2 Closed Areas, during the specified period are advised to keep clear of ferry piers, China Ferry Terminal and the Hong Kong and Macau Ferry Terminal. Masters/coxswains are advised to stem the tide during the fireworks and pyrotechnic display to avoid intruding into the Restricted Area.

Safety Measures by All Vessels

5. Vessels approaching the Restricted Area before the fireworks and pyrotechnic display and vessels leaving their viewing positions after the display must proceed at a safe speed, which should not generally exceed 5 knots. Every vessel must at all times maintain a proper lookout, and take measures to avoid obscuring the view of any person keeping a lookout, including switching off the

cabin lights. Searchlights must not be used as they may interfere with the proper lookout and the safe operation of other vessels.

6. Masters/coxswains, owners, agents and operators of spectator vessels are advised to take the following steps before the start of the voyage:

- (a) all persons on board are made aware of the location of all lifesaving appliances and instructed on the proper way to wear a lifejacket, and the location of all emergency exits;
- (b) all children on board are required to wear lifejackets at all times;
- (c) a passenger and crew list containing the names of passengers and crew on board is kept by the master/coxswain for emergency purposes; and
- (d) the carrying capacity specified in the operating licence of the vessel is adhered to.

7. When a vessel requires immediate assistance, the master/coxswain of the vessel may:

- (a) signal for assistance by using the distress signals set out in the Annex to the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea 1972 and its amendments;
- (b) call the Vessel Traffic Centre, Marine Department (call-sign "MARDEP, HONG KONG") on VHF Channel 02;
- (c) call the Marine Regional Command & Control Centre, Hong Kong Police Force on telephone 3660 8608 or 3660 8609 or 3660 8620; or
- (d) call the emergency number 999.

8. Masters/coxswains, owners, agents and operators of small vessels, especially those without a deck or those of less than 5 metres in length, are advised **NOT** to enter or remain in the Central Harbour area during the event. Such vessels are vulnerable to the wash of larger vessels in areas of high traffic density, and are not easily detected by larger vessels, which have higher freeboard.

9. Launches of the Marine Department, Marine Police and Fire Services Department will be stationed in or patrolling the Central Harbour. They will exhibit either a flashing red or a flashing blue light. Masters/coxswains should follow any instructions given by the officers on these launches.

Closure of Public Piers and Landing Steps

10. To facilitate landside crowd control, the public landing steps at Kowloon Public Pier will be temporarily closed from 2200 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024 (except No.4 and No.5 landing steps at Kowloon Public Pier will be closed from 2000 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024), while other public landing steps within the Restricted Area will be closed from 2230 hours on 31 December 2023 to about 0100 hours on 1 January 2024.

11. Owing to high demand of landing facilities within the Restricted Area immediately after their reopening, some delay to the disembarkation of passengers is inevitable. For the sake of safety, masters/coxswains of vessels are advised not to leave their viewing positions hurriedly after the event; and consider using landing facilities outside the Central Harbour for disembarkation.

Buffer Zone

12. For safe and orderly disembarkation of passengers, three Buffer Zones, one at Kowloon Public Pier (KPP), one at Kwun Tong Public Pier (KTPP) and the other at Central Pier 9 (CP 9) and 10 (CP 10), will be established immediately after the event until the traffic returns to normal. The Buffer Zones extend about 90 metres from the piers and are marked and regulated by Marine Department and Marine Police launches. Vessels intending to use KPP, KTPP, CP 9 or CP 10 are required to wait at the designated gathering area prior to getting alongside and follow the direction of Marine Department or Marine Police officers. Vessels using KPP will only be permitted to enter the Buffer Zone from the east and leave from the west. Vessels using KTPP should wait outside the Kwun Tong

Typhoon Shelter for their turns to get alongside, enter the Buffer Zone from the east and leave from the west. To expedite disembarkation, masters/coxswains are advised to remind passengers to check their personal belongings early.

Strengthening Inspection on Compliance of Safety Measures by Spectator Vessels

13. To ensure that the spectator vessels comply with the legal requirements and take proper safety measures, the Marine Department will step up inspection on their lifesaving appliances; suitable lifejackets for children and infants; children must wear lifejackets at all times; children to be accompanied by an adult; and keeping a list of all passengers and crew on board. If any deficiencies are detected in any of the aforementioned respects during an inspection, the coxswain of the vessel or any person concerned may be prosecuted if he or she fails to comply with relevant legal requirements. Masters/coxswains, owners, agents and operators are advised to observe all safety measures given in this Notice to avoid any unnecessary delay, and more importantly, to safeguard the safety of passengers and crew.

Requirements Relating to Passenger Safety

14. To enhance the safety of passengers, a local vessel licensed to carry passengers which is present in a “specified area” during the “specified period” in a major event at sea must comply with the following requirements:

(a) Children must be accompanied by an adult on board

The coxswain of the vessel must not allow a child (a person under the age of 12 years) to be on board the vessel unless the child is accompanied by an adult.

(b) Suitable lifejackets for children and infants

(i) the coxswain of the vessel must provide the adult who is accompanying a child with a suitable lifejacket for the child, take reasonable steps to demonstrate to the adult how the lifejacket should be worn by the child and remind the adult of the requirements as detailed in (ii) and (iii) below;

- (ii) the adult accompanying a child (other than an infant under the age of 2 years) on board the vessel must ensure that the child wears a suitable lifejacket at all times; and
- (iii) the adult accompanying an infant (a person under the age of 2 years) on board the vessel must ensure that the safety of the infant will not be prejudiced by not wearing a suitable lifejacket on board the vessel.

(c) Producing a list of all persons on board

- (i) the coxswain of the vessel must keep a list of all persons on board covering each person's full name. In the case of children, the particulars shall also include their age and the full name(s) of the accompanying adult(s). The coxswain must not allow any person who fails to give the said particulars to board or to remain on board the vessel.
- (ii) the person or the adult accompanying a child on board must give the said particulars to the coxswain or a crew member of the vessel if so requested by the coxswain or the crew member.
- (iii) the coxswain must produce the list for inspection on request by an authorized officer.

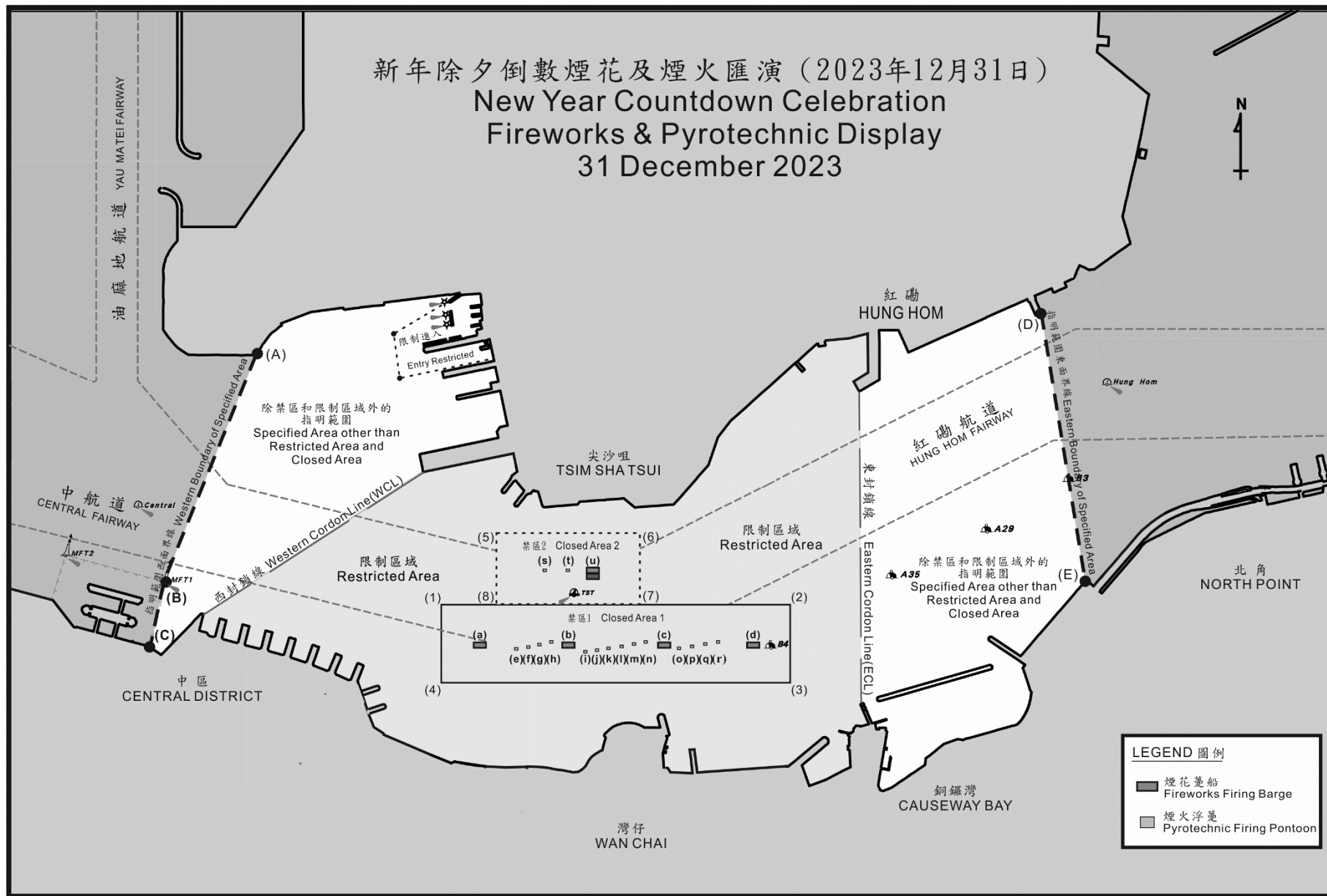
15. Masters/coxswains, owners, agents and operators must observe the aforementioned requirements and exercise due diligence to comply with. A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with the requirements commits an offence and is liable to a fine of HK\$5,000.

16 The above requirements do not apply to a local vessel which is:

- (a) made fast to the shore;
- (b) in use for a franchised service or licensed service under the Ferry Services Ordinance (Cap. 104); or
- (c) berthed, moored, anchored or secured in a typhoon shelter.

海事處佈告第 212 / 2023 號附圖

Drawing Attached to Marine Department Notice No. 212/2023



不宜作航行用途

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION