



# COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

## PRESIDENT

28 July 2020

NMLA Presidents  
Titulary Members  
Consultative Members

Re: *Rotterdam Rules*

Dear Presidents, Titulary Members and Consultative Members,

I write further to my letter of 3 March 2020, which referenced the increasing number of shipboard casualties caused by container fires and attached, inter alia, the CMI's recent submissions to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Committee on the Carriage of Cargos and Containers and IMO Facilitation Committee, which seek to explain how the Rotterdam Rules can contribute to vessel safety and minimize such casualties.

Attached you will find the 26 July 2020 note authored by Professor Tomotaka Fujita, the Chair of the CMI Standing Committee on Carriage of Goods (including Rotterdam Rules) on "The Role of the Rotterdam Rules in Vessel Safety: CMI's Submissions to IMO," which explains the background on the CMI's information papers that were submitted to IMO, and attaches Professor (and Standing Committee Rapporteur) Michael Sturley's recent editorial from the Journal of International Maritime Law which helps put the CMI's submissions in context.

I join Professors Fujita and Sturley in urging National Maritime Law Associations, Titulary Members and Consultative Members to liaise with their respective Government representatives and promote the modernization of their cargo legal regimes and the ratification of the Rotterdam Rules which, in turn, is likely to contribute to the solution of the problem of shipboard casualties caused by container fires.

Faithfully yours,

Christopher O. Davis

COD:gef  
Attachments  
cc: Executive Council

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