

Information Paper

**LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Subcommittee on Class IV Vessels**

Licensing requirements for Class IV vessels let for hire or reward

Purpose

This information paper reminds Members of the ending of the 12-month transitional period on 1 August 2021 and the full implementation of the new licensing requirements for Class IV vessels let for hire or reward. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Background

2. In 2020, the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Certification and Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 548 sub. leg. D) was amended to impose the requirement that the owner of a Class IV vessel must obtain the Director of Marine's prior approval and endorsement on the vessel's operating licence if the vessel is to be let for hire or reward (the requirement). The amendment came into force on 1 August 2020.

Transitional Period Ends on 1 August 2021

3. The amendment also introduced a transitional period, i.e., 12 months beginning on 1 August 2020. During the period, a contravention of the requirement does not constitute an offence under the legislation. This transitional period ends on 1 August 2021.

4. Starting from 1 August 2021, a Class IV vessel must not be let for hire or reward unless there is an endorsement on the vessel's operating licence showing that approval for the vessel to be let for hire or reward has been given by the Director. An abstract of section 6 of Cap.548D is at the [Annex](#) to this Paper showing details of the requirement.

Way Forward

5. Members are invited to note the full implementation of the requirement, and to inform parties concerned for compliance.

Marine Department

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