

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Subcommittee on Class IV Vessels

**Miscellaneous Amendments to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)
(Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap 548G)**

Purpose

Having reviewed the existing provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap. 548G) (the “Regulation”), the Marine Department (“MD”) proposes making miscellaneous amendments to the Regulation. This paper seeks the comments of this Committee on the proposed legislative amendments.

Details

Plans to be kept on board the vessel

2. According to section 3 under Part 1 of Schedule 3, there shall be kept at all times on board certain local vessels one set of plans that contain the following information, including the general arrangement of the vessel, the seating arrangements and escape routes (if the vessel is involved in the carriage of passengers), the types and dispositions of life-saving appliances, fire-fighting apparatus, lights and sound signals, and the vessel’s stability information. These plans (except the stability information) and the instructions to be followed in the case of an emergency shall be displayed at all times in conspicuous places throughout every Class IV vessel that is licensed to carry more than 100 passengers. If the above requirement is violated without reasonable excuse, the owner of the local vessel concerned, his agent and the coxswain each commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine and imprisonment.

3. Considering that Schedule 3 to the Regulation aims mainly to set out the general requirements for the provision of life-saving appliances on board different types of vessels, the MD proposes to move the above-mentioned requirements under Schedule 3 related to plans to Part 3

of the Regulation which contains the empowering provisions on plan approval. Besides, given that the specified plans concerned are at present prescribed in the Codes of Practice having regard to factors including vessel class, type, category, construction material and year of construction, the MD proposes that the plans to be kept on board or displayed should also be specified in the Code of Practices.

Fire protection and provision of fire-fighting apparatus

4. Having reviewed the actual needs, the MD proposes to make the following amendments to Schedule 4 to the Regulation:

- (a) For Class IV vessels to which Table 1 of Part 2 applies, i.e. pleasure vessels that are licensed to carry 13 to 60 passengers but are let for hire or reward and pleasure vessels that are licensed to carry more than 60 passengers, at present no fire pump is required for those vessels less than 15 metres in length, and the current requirement is to provide one set of fire main + hose + hydrant + jet nozzle (fire hydrant set). Considering that the provision of the fire hydrant set without the installation of a fire pump will have no actual effect on fire-fighting, and the existing requirements on provision of fire-fighting apparatus are adequate, the MD proposes to repeal the requirement of one fire hydrant set on this type of vessels.
- (b) For vessels under Table 3, since Class IV vessels are not classified into Category A or Category B, the MD proposes to clarify that Class IV vessels to which the table applies would only have to comply with the requirements of portable fire extinguisher and fire bucket with lanyard.

Way Forward

5. Subject to the comments of the Committee, the MD will consult the Department of Justice on the details of the above legislative amendments and submit the proposed amendments to the Local Vessels Advisory Committee (LVAC) for discussion and support. Subject to the comments of the LVAC, the MD will take forward the amendments in due course.

Marine Department
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