

Information Paper

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

Updates on Local Certificate of Competency Examinations

Purpose

1. This information paper updates members for the latest developments for the services in relation to the Local Certificate of Competency (CoC). Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Qualifications Framework(QF) for eight Local CoC

2. In May 2020, MD hired three independent consultants to conduct a comprehensive review of the examination questions and three sets of guidebooks, including “Examination Guidebook on Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 2 Certificate of Competency”. The review completed in November 2020 and the new examinations arrangement (with the reviewed questions, revised assessment methods and formats) was implemented on 16 November 2020.

3. The new versions guidebooks incorporated with the consultants’ comments and the feedback from the industry have been published and uploaded to MD’s website on 31 May 2021. .

https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/guidebooks.html

4. Apart from CoC, candidates who successfully passed the relevant examination will be issued with a certificate showing the QF Level corresponding to the CoC obtained.

5. Since the implementation of the new examination arrangement for QF, the overall passing rates of the Local CoC examinations have increased except the Chart Work and Oral examinations for the Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 (PVOC1) CoC.

New arrangements of Local CoC examinations

6. Owing to Covid-19, Local CoC written examinations were seriously affected. When MD resumed the examinations in February 2021, the total numbers of affected candidates for Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 2 Certificate of Competence (PVOC2) and for other types of COCs are 5,500 and 300 respectively.

7. To clear the backlog the soonest the possible, MD had arranged an examination venue of Vocational Training Centre at Cheung Sha Wan for Coxswain Grade 3, Engine Operator Grade 2 & Engine Operator Grade 3 examinations and MD's conference room for Chart Work and Seagoing examinations. Up to date, all the affected candidates have been scheduled to take the examinations by May of 2021 unless some of them opt to attend their examinations later. As such, the backlog for Local CoC examinations has been resolved and the examinations have already been opened for the new and re-sit applications on 19 April 2021.

On-line application for PVOC2 examination

8. In addition to the traditional application method for PVOC2 examination, an electronic on-line system including booking and payment has been launched on 19 April 2021. Henceforth, candidates for PVOC2 may opt to apply their examination through the internet system. Up to 9 June 2021, more than 1,900 applications for PVOC2 were via this on-line arrangement.

https://ebs.mardep.gov.hk/en/services_seafarer_examination_services.php

Actions required

9. Members are invited to note the information above and any proposal for improvements of Local CoC services are welcome.

River Trade and Local Examination Section

Marine Department

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