

Sub-committee on Class IV Vessels

Proposal to certificate and license float lift as Class II work boat

Purpose

This paper seeks members' views on a proposal to certificate and license float lifts as Class II work boats. (Float lifts are used as a means of stowing Class IV vessels (i.e. pleasure vessels)).

Background

2. Under Section 11 and 13 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap. 548, a local vessel must be certificated and every certificated local vessel must be licensed.

3. In recent years, a number of owners of Class IV vessels have been using float lifts for stowing their vessels when they are not in use. Currently, float lifts come in different types and are moored at various parts of Hong Kong waters, such as in designated private mooring areas, typhoon shelters, marinas and sheltered anchorages. (see **Annex**)

4. In view of the increasing number of float lifts and their popularity, the Marine Department (MD) has decided to set up a licensing and survey regime for float lifts used for stowing Class IV vessels and their endorsed ancillary vessel (if any) to ensure that they are used safely.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that a float lift may be certificated and licensed as a Class II vessel (work boat) if the following requirements are met:

- (i) the owner of a float lift is required to provide a document to prove that the float lift is safe to stow the intended vessel. The document may be either a certificate issued by the float lift builder, the relevant Classification Society or an authorized surveyor;

- (ii) a float lift of metallic construction or with an area exceeding 25 square metres must be inspected and issued with a certificate of inspection or a certificate of survey before licensing;
- (iii) a float lift must be used solely for the purpose of stowing the designated vessel and her endorsed ancillary vessel (if any);
- (iv) a float lift must be moored to a private mooring at the designated position as approved by the Director of Marine (DM);
- (v) except with the permission of the DM, a float lift must not be moved from the designated position;
- (vi) the DM may direct the owner to remove a float lift to any other location within Hong Kong waters. The owner must, at his own cost, remove the float lift to the location as directed. Any loss or damage resulting from the removal is to be borne by the owner;
- (vii) the use or fitting of any type of mechanical means of propulsion on a float lift is prohibited;
- (viii) a float lift must not be towed with a vessel being stowed, or with any person on board the float lift;
- (ix) a float lift, the pleasure vessel for which the float lift is intended to stow and the associated private mooring must be owned by the same person/company.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to comment and endorse the above proposal.

**Operations Branch
Port Control Division
Marine Department
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香港水域內的浮動升降架

Float lifts in Hong Kong waters



1. 藍巴勒海峽避風塘
Rambler Channel Typhoon Shelter



2. 香港仔南避風塘
Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter



3. 新油麻地避風塘
New Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter



4. 筲箕灣避風塘
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter



5. 筲箕灣避風塘
Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter



6. 將軍澳, 清水灣半島對開
Tseung Kwan O, off Oscar by the Sea



7. 船灣避風塘
Shuen Wan Typhoon Shelter



8. 船灣避風塘
Shuen Wan Typhoon Shelter