

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting of Joint Sub-committee on Class I and Class IV Vessels

Review on the Duty Roster and Working/Rest Time Arrangements for Crew of Local Passenger Carrying Vessels

Purpose

The review aims at improving the existing system to ensure that crew on duty have had adequate rest before carrying out their duties.

Background

2. Crew of local passenger carrying vessels are normally deployed to work on a “one-day-on and one-day-off” system. In response to the Lamma Island ferry collision, the Marine Department (MD) convened a meeting of the Local Vessels Advisory Committee on 26 October and agreed with committee members that this Joint Sub-committee should be set up to review, and propose improvement measures for, the duty roster and working/rest time arrangements for crew of local passenger carrying vessels so as to enhance maritime safety.

Areas to be considered for improvement under the review

3. The areas to be considered under the review are :
- 3.1 Comparison of the existing local system and those of other areas with regard to sailing frequency, and the duty roster and working/rest time arrangements for crew of passenger carrying vessels operating within their respective waters, taking into account the duty roster and working/rest time arrangements for crew of high speed passenger vessels plying between Hong Kong and Macao.

- 3.2 Adjustment of the existing system to ensure that crew on duty have had adequate rest before carrying out their duties.
- 3.3 Consideration of special arrangements on extra services at such times when the passenger volume is high to prevent crew from fatigue.

Way Forward

4. It is proposed that the Joint Sub-committee holds a meeting every three weeks. It is hoped that a consensus can be reached on certain items of discussion by February next year. The overall review is expected to be completed by late 2013 and a report will be submitted to the Local Vessels Advisory Committee.

5. Depending on the outcome of the review and recommendations made by the Joint Sub-committee, MD will examine the most appropriate means, such as amending the Code of Practice or legislative amendment, to implement the proposed improvement measures.

Advice Sought

6. Members' views are sought on the proposals set out above.

Marine Department

November 2012