

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Joint Sub-committee on Class I and Class IV Vessels

Preparatory Maritime Course and Proof of In-Service Training in the Required Items

Purpose

To ensure that those preparing to obtain the Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate (the Candidates) possess a certain level of professional and navigational knowledge.

Present Position

2. At present, the Candidates are only required to have proof of relevant working experience but need not have received systematic training. As a result, there are marked discrepancies in the Candidates' level of professional and navigational knowledge.
3. The number of applicants for the various coxswain certificates and the passing rates in the past three years are set out in the following table:

No. of Applicants and Passing Rate	<u>Coxswain Certificates</u>								
	Grade 1			Grade 2			Grade 3		
	No. of Applicants	No. of Passing Applicants	Passing rate	No. of Applicants	No. of Passing Applicants	Passing rate	No. of Applicants	No. of Passing Applicants	Passing rate
2009	34	20	58.8%	242	37	15.3%	889	276	31.0%
2010	12	12	100.0%	203	36	17.7%	716	281	39.2%
2011	12	7	58.3%	161	40	24.8%	270	120	44.4%

Proposals

4. In order to bring about improvement in the present position and to narrow the gaps among the levels of the Candidates who intend to join the local maritime industry, we propose that the Candidates be required to receive systematic training as follows:

- 4.1 Completion of a preparatory maritime course that meets the following criteria:
- a. it is offered by the Maritime Services Training Institute, a workers' union or a trade association, with its curriculum and trainers' qualification approved by the Marine Department;
 - b. the standard duration is 70 hours for day or evening instruction; no examination is required; and the course can be completed by the Candidates any time within a one-year service period with a certificate of attendance awarded to those who have attained a certain level of attendance; and
 - c. its duration can count towards the time for calculating the one-year in-service experience required of the Candidates who intend to take the coxswain examination.
- 4.2 In-service training in at least the following basic items under coxswains' supervision, with employers' proof of completion of such training by the Candidates:
- a. steering;
 - b. wheelhouse lookout;
 - c. points to note for navigation at night;
 - d. points to note for navigation in poor visibility;
 - e. the use of navigation lights and fog signals;
 - f. the use of radar (if any) and other navigation installations;
 - g. mooring practices and the use of ropes; and
 - h. basic pre-departure checks for engines.

Advice Sought

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