

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Joint Sub-committee on Class I and Class IV Vessels

Continuous Learning for Coxswains of Local Passenger Carrying Vessels

Purpose

To ensure that the professional standards and navigational knowledge of coxswains operating local passenger carrying vessels are maintained through continuous learning.

Present Position and Proposals

2. At present, a Coxswain Certificate expires when its holder attains the age of 65, but it does not ensure that the professional standards and navigational knowledge of the holder are maintained at an appropriate level. In the light of the above, we propose that:

- 2.1 All coxswains of local passenger carrying vessels should be required to take continuous learning courses as arranged;
- 2.2 Details of the arrangement should be as follows -
 - a. Coxswains have to possess 3 years of experience operating local passenger carrying vessels for every 5-year period, with proof of such from their employers;
 - b. coxswains have to attend in-house training courses organised by their employers twice within the same 5-year period stated above; and
 - c. coxswains have to attend a “one-day refresher course for coxswains of local vessels” organised by the Maritime Services Training Institute, workers’ unions or trade associations each year within the same 5-year period stated above, and hold the

attendance certificate for such course. The course should cover such areas as collision prevention at sea, contingency measures, life-saving at sea and awareness of navigational safety.

Advice Sought

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

Marine Department
28 December 2012