

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Joint Sub-committee on Class I and Class IV Vessels

Change Measures for Examination

Purpose

This paper aims to consult the Sub-committee on the proposed change measures for examination with a view to reducing the time required for local crew to attain relevant qualifications.

Proposed Measures

2. Without prejudice to the navigational safety within the harbour, we propose measures as follows:

Class of Certificate	Item
Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="513 1209 1425 1682">1. Considering that candidates will have to complete the preparatory maritime course and in-service training before they are eligible to take the examination for the Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate, the sea service time required on mechanised vessels other than pleasure vessels should be shortened from 12 months to 9 months. For service time on non-mechanised cargo vessels or on pleasure vessels whilst holding any type of pleasure vessel certificate of competency, it should be shortened from 24 months to 18 months. <li data-bbox="513 1682 1425 1871">2. The number of multiple choice examination questions to be answered within 50 minutes should be cut from 50 to 40 to allow candidates more time to answer the questions. The pass mark should still be 70%.

Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate	3. For candidates who fail in one of the two sections (multiple choice questions and practical chart work) of Part A of the examination for Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate, their pass results should remain valid for two years and they should only be required to retake the examination for the section they fail.
	4. The number of multiple choice examination questions to be answered within 40 minutes should be cut from 40 to 30 to allow candidates more time to answer the questions. The pass mark should still be 70%.
Any Coxswain or Engine Operator Certificates	5. Applications for examination should be accepted three months before applicants are eligible for taking examinations so as to shorten their waiting time after meeting the examination criteria. However, if applicants could not take the examinations for personal reasons after submitting their applications, the examination fee will not be refunded.

3. In addition, the attainment of the eyesight standards required by the Marine Department (MD) as set out in the Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency and the Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency was proposed to be certified by a medical practitioner registered with the Medical Council of Hong Kong or an optometrist registered with the Optometrists Board. The eyesight testing service provided by MD will be terminated upon implementation of the proposal.

Advice Sought

4. Subject to members' support and the Local Vessels Advisory Committee's endorsement, the proposed measures can be implemented in the third quarter of 2014 after amendments to the examination rules have been made.

Marine Department

20 February 2014