

Local Vessels Advisory Committee
Joint Sub-committee on Class I and Class IV Vessels

Regular Medical Examination for Coxswains

Purpose

This paper sets out the Marine Department (MD)'s proposal to require coxswains of vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers to undergo a medical examination (including an eyesight test) every five years.

Background

2. At present, coxswains of local vessels are not required to undergo regular medical examinations upon acquiring their qualifications until the age of 65. Moreover, they are only subject to an eyesight test on their applications for extending the validity of their certificates after the age of 65.

3. It was recommended in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Collision of Vessels near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012 (CoI Report) that all coxswains of vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers should undergo a basic medical examination and an eyesight test at intervals not exceeding five years. MD agrees with the recommendation made in the CoI Report and is of the view that it will help enhance the safety of passenger vessels.

Proposed regular medical examination for coxswains

4. It is proposed that coxswains of Class I vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers should undergo a medical examination (including an eyesight test) every five years. The items under examination should at least cover the following –

- (a) General examination (including weight, height, blood pressure, pulse measurements, etc.);
- (b) Urine test (albumin and glucose test);

- (c) Chest X-ray;
- (d) Eyesight test;
- (e) Blood test (haemoglobin test);
- (f) Hearing test; and
- (g) Medical report with medical practitioner's comment.

Vessel owners or operators may appoint any medical practitioner registered in Hong Kong to conduct the above medical examination and items under examination may cover more than those stated above.

Way Forward

5. Subject to Members' approval that the proposed regular medical examination should cover the items stated in paragraph 4 above, MD will draw up further details of the proposal and consult members in subsequent Sub-committee meetings.

Advice Sought

6. Members are invited to comment on the paper.

Marine Department
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