

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Joint Sub-committee on Class I and Class IV Vessels

Regular Medical Examination for Coxswains

Purpose

This paper sets out further details of the proposal that requires 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 its meeting on 28 August 2014, the Joint Sub-committee discussed Paper No. 3/2014 and endorsed the proposal set out in paragraph 4 thereof, namely, coxswains of Class I vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers should undergo a medical examination (including an eyesight test) every five years and the items under examination should 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); and (f) hearing test; and a medical report with practitioner's comment should be obtained upon completion of the examination. Vessel owners or operators may appoint any medical practitioner registered in Hong Kong to conduct the above medical examination.

Further Details of the Proposal

Examination Standards

3. It is proposed that, in addition to the requirement that the eyesight test results should meet the eyesight standards for local certificates of competency for coxswains, vessels owners or operators should, by referring to the medical examination results, determine in the light of individual operating circumstances whether a particular coxswain is suitable to operate Class I vessels permitted to carry more than 100 passengers.

Mode of Operation

4. It is proposed that the cost of the medical examination be borne by the employers of coxswains. After the medical examination, employers should keep a copy of the examination report until the issue of a new one or until at least six months after the coxswain's employment ceases. Employers should also provide the coxswain with a copy of the examination report free of charge.

5. For newly recruited serving coxswains, if they have already undergone a medical examination in compliance with paragraph 4 of Paper No. 3/2014 in the past five years and can produce the medical examination report concerned, they are not required to undergo another medical examination until the expiry of the five-year validity period of the report.

Way Forward

6. Subject to members' views, the Marine Department will submit the proposal to the Local Vessels Advisory Committee for consultation.

Advice Sought

7. Members are invited to give their views on the paper.

Marine Department

21 November 2014