

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

Practical Operation Assessment –
Course Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements

Purpose

This paper sets out the course curriculum and assessment arrangements of the proposed practical operation assessment.

Background

2. Paper No. 4/2014 was discussed at the Joint Sub-committee meeting on 28 August 2014. Members expressed their wish to first draw up the course curriculum and assessment arrangements of the practical operation assessment before further discussion. It is proposed in Paper No. 4/2014 that coxswains be required to pass a practical operation assessment before they are allowed to operate the following types of vessels:

- (a) Class I vessels of more than 24 metres in length or 26.4 metres in length overall; and
- (b) pleasure vessels let for hire or reward of more than 15 metres in length overall.

Such changes will only be applicable to holders of certificates issued after the proposal comes into effect. Those who have been granted the Coxswain Grade 1 Certificate or Pleasure Vessel Operator Grade 1 Certificate before the effective date of the proposal will not be affected.

Course Curriculum and Assessment Details

3. The proposed course curriculum includes:
 - (a) simulation of general navigation in local waters and familiarisation of vessel operation as required by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea; and
 - (b) response actions (e.g. manoeuvring of vessel, passenger control, external communication, etc.) in the event of emergency (e.g. man overboard, collision, etc.).
4. Based on the preliminary estimate made by potential course providers, the course will last for about 3.5 days and the fee will be around \$5,500 per person. The course plans to apply for subsidies for eligible course participants under the Maritime and Aviation Training Fund.
5. It is proposed that in the assessment, which will last for about half an hour, a course participant will be required to operate a navigation simulator under the observation of a course instructor. He/she will be considered to have passed the assessment if the instructor finds his/her performance satisfactory. The Marine Department (MD) will recognise suitable practical operation assessment courses and the assessment results, and will conduct random inspections of the courses and assessment process to ensure quality.

Way Forward

6. MD will submit the above proposal and the proposal set out in Paper No. 4/2014 to the Local Vessels Advisory Committee for discussion and support. Subject to the advice of the Department of Justice, MD will implement the above proposal by revising the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Local Certificates of Competency) Rules, Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency, and Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency.

Advice Sought

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

Marine Department

21 November 2014