

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

Standard of Lifejackets

Purpose

This paper sets out the proposed standard of lifejackets for use on local vessels.

Background

2. One of the expert witnesses appointed by the Commission of Inquiry into Collisions of Vessels near Lamma Island on 1 October 2012 recommended including a definition for “lifejackets” in the legislation with reference to the ISO Level 150 standard or equivalent.

Proposal

3. The Marine Department (“MD”) has considered the circumstances in and outside the waters of Hong Kong. MD proposes that the lifejackets required to be provided on board a local vessel under section 32 of and Schedule 3 to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation (Cap 548G) must at least comply with the performance standards and requirements set out in –

- (a) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply both in and outside the waters of Hong Kong –
 - (i) section 2.2 of the International Life-saving Appliance Code (“LSA Code”) adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization (“IMO”); or
 - (ii) ISO 12402-3:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 3: Lifejackets, performance level 150 – Safety requirements) (“ISO Level 150 standard”) issued by the International Organization for Standardization (“ISO”);
- (b) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply solely in the waters of Hong Kong –

- (i) section 2.2 of the LSA Code adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO; or
- (ii) ISO 12402-4:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, performance level 100 – Safety requirements) (“ISO Level 100 standard”) issued by ISO.

In addition, the lifejackets must be of a type approved by a maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea is applicable or a classification society.

4. The proposal in paragraph 3 above will apply to post-2 January 2007 Classes I, II and III vessels and all Class IV vessels.

5. MD proposes to amend the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Classes I, II and III Vessels and the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels as shown at **Annexes A and B**. It is sufficient to prescribe appropriate standards of lifejacket in the Codes of Practice. It is not necessary to prescribe them at legislation level.

Way Forward

6. Subject to Members’ views, MD will seek the Local Vessels Advisory Committee’s endorsement of the proposal above and then amend the two Codes of Practice.

Advice Sought

7. Members are invited to comment on the proposal above and the proposed amendments at **Annexes A and B**.

Marine Department
11 March 2015

Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Classes I, II and III Vessels
Chapter VII
(extract)

...

1.2 “LSA Code” means the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organization by Resolution its resolution MSC.48(66).

...

<2.1 Life-saving appliances ~~should~~(other than lifejackets) shall be of approved types. Appliances which conform to the LSA Code, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO by resolution MSC.48(66) and approved by ~~the a~~ maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 is applicable~~convention—country~~ or a classification society are acceptable. >

The lifejackets required to be provided on board a local vessel under section 32 of and Schedule 3 to the Survey Regulation must –

(a) at least comply with the performance standards and requirements set out in –

(i) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply both in and outside the waters of Hong Kong –

(A) section 2.2 of the LSA Code; or

(B) ISO 12402-3:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 3: Lifejackets, performance level 150 – Safety requirements) issued by the International Organization for Standardization (“ISO”);

(ii) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply solely in the waters of Hong Kong –

(A) section 2.2 of the LSA Code; or

(B) ISO 12402-4:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 4: Lifejackets, performance level 100 – Safety requirements) issued by the ISO; and

(b) be of a type approved by a maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 is applicable or a classification society. >

— For existing vessels other than high risk vessels, life-saving appliances which have been approved by the national maritime authority of their country of manufacture in accordance with the national standard or have been approved by the Department are also considered acceptable.

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Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class IV Vessels
Chapter VI
(extract)

...

1.1 All life-saving appliances ~~should~~(other than lifejackets) shall be of approved type. Appliances, which conform to the International Life-Saving Appliance (LSA) Code, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO by ~~Resolution~~its resolution MSC.48-(66) and approved by ~~the a~~ maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 is applicable~~convention country~~ or a classification society ~~on behalf of a maritime administration~~, or equivalent, are acceptable.

1.1A The lifejackets required to be provided on board a local vessel under section 32 of and Schedule 3 to the Survey Regulation must –

(a) at least comply with the performance standards and requirements set out in –

(i) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply both in and outside the waters of Hong Kong –

(A) section 2.2 of the LSA Code; or

(B) ISO 12402-3:2006 (Personal floatation devices – Part 3: Lifejackets, performance level 150 – Safety requirements) issued by the International Organization for Standardization (“ISO”);

(ii) for a local vessel which is permitted to ply solely in the waters of Hong Kong –

(A) section 2.2 of the LSA Code; or

(B) ISO 12402-4:2006 (Personal floatation devices –

Part 4: Lifejackets, performance level 100 – Safety requirements) issued by the ISO; and

(b) be of a type approved by a maritime administration of a jurisdiction to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 is applicable or a classification society.

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