

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 16th Meeting

Date : 10 October 2014 (Friday)
Time : 2:30 p.m.
Place : Conference Room A, 24/F, Harbour Building

Present

Chairman:	Mr. H. M. TUNG	Deputy Director, Marine Department (MD)
Members:	Mr. NG Kwok-wing, Eric Mr. SZETO Feut	Representing Naval Architecture Representing Ship Building and Repairing Industry
	Mr. HUANG Li-fan Capt. LAM Hong-kwok (On behalf of Mr. LUK Pak-hung)	Representing Ship Survey Work Representing Seafarer's Training
	Mr. SIU Ping-wing Mr. WONG Miu-sang (On behalf of Mr. WAN Guo-qing)	Representing Seafarer's Associations Representing Cargo Vessels' Operations
	Mr. WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy	Representing Launch & Excursion Vessels' Operations
	Mr. CHEUNG Kwok-wai Mr. Ambrose LO	Representing Ferry Vessels' Operations Representing Pleasure Boating Operations
	Mr. YEUNG Ngai-lung (On behalf of Hon. Steven HO Chun-yin)	Representing Fishing Industry
	Mr. CHEUNG Mei-hon	Representing Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)
	Mr. Jimmy LEUNG Mr. H. B. CHAN	GM/LVS, MD GM/Ops, MD
Secretary:	Ms. Alison WONG	EO(C&G), MD

In Attendance

Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai	Hong Kong & Kowloon Floating Fisherman Welfare Promotion Association
Mr. WONG Yiu-kan	Hong Kong Cargo-Vessel Traders' Association Ltd.

Mr. CHOR Yee-on	The Hong Kong & Yaumati Ferry Co Ltd.
Mr. LI Chi-keung	Marine Excursion Association Ltd.
Mr. FAN Keung	Small Craft Workers Union
Mr. ON Man-sang	Small Craft Workers Union
Mr. PUI Chi-keung	Hong Kong & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats Association Limited
Ms. Yvette CHAN	Hong Kong Pilots Association
Mr. S. F. WONG	AD(SD)(Ag), MD
Mr. Y. K. LAI	C/MP, MD, MD
Mr. WONG Wing-hang	SAO(SD), MD

Absent with Apologies

Ms. Vivian HO	Representing Marine Insurance Industry
Mr. Kevin FAN	Representing River Trade Cargo Operations

I. Opening Remarks

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, and extended welcome particularly to the following attendees:

Attending on behalf of other members

- Capt. LAM Hong-kwok (on behalf of Mr. LUK Pak-hung representing seafarers' training)
- Mr. WONG Miu-sang (on behalf of Mr. WAN Guo-qing representing cargo vessels' operations)
- Mr. YEUNG Ngai-lung (on behalf of Hon. Steven HO Chun-yin representing fishing industry)

II. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The minutes of the 15th meeting held on 25.4.2014 had been circulated to members for endorsement in June and July 2014 respectively. The minutes were confirmed without amendment.

III. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

LVAC Paper No. 8/2014 – Guideline on the Minimum Safe Number of Crew for Ferry Vessels and Launches

3. Mr. S. F. WONG presented the paper to members, which set out the proposed guideline on the minimum safe number of crew for ferry vessels and launches. Mr. WONG emphasized again that the ultimate minimum safe number of crew is to be determined by the number of crew that is sufficient to handle emergency

situations as demonstrated in emergency drills. Further to this, the paper also suggested the provision of public address system or portable loudspeaker on every ferry vessel and launch which accommodates passengers on one deck only and carries not more than 100 passengers.

4. Members raised no comments and the paper was endorsed.

LVAC Paper No. 9/2014 – Passenger Seats

5. Mr. Jimmy LEUNG presented the paper in detail, which covered the proposals on the attachment standard for fixed passenger seats and the provision of non-fixed passenger seats.
6. In response to Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai and Mr. PUI Chi-keung's enquiry and request, Mr. Jimmy LEUNG said that consideration could be given to prepare a table listing out more examples on the screws (including size, length and material) to be used for different sizes of passenger seats to be secured on the deck of the vessels to facilitate the implementation by vessel owners.
7. Mr. CHEUNG Kwok-wai suggested that briefing sessions should be arranged for the industry to introduce in detail the new proposal and the attachment requirements. Vessel owners could then have a chance to raise questions in connection with the calculation of screw size and screw length. MD would consider this suggestion.

(Post-meeting note: LVSS attended a meeting organized by the Hong Kong & Kowloon Motor Boats & Tug Boats Association Limited (MBTA) on 27 October 2014 to brief vessel owners on the implementation details of this proposal.)

8. With regard to the provision of non-fixed passenger seats, Mr. S. F. WONG reminded that if a ferry vessel or launch satisfied all the conditions set out in the paper, the vessel owner should send in his written request together with damage stability calculation for the permission of placing non-fixed passenger seats soonest to MD for verification.
9. Members raised no further comments and the paper was endorsed.

LVAC Paper No. 10/2014 – Miscellaneous Amendments to Subsidiary Legislation under the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance and the Code of Practice – Safety Standards for Class I, II and III Vessels

10. Mr. Jimmy LEUNG presented the paper to members. Mr. CHEUNG Kwok-wai pointed out a minor typo at para. 25 of the Chinese paper that the term “隱性” should read “穩性”. As the proposed amendments would not have significant implications to the operations of the local industry, members raised no further

comments and endorsed the paper.

11. Mr. S. F. WONG remarked that the draft revisions of the Code of Practice (COP) in relation to the above paper no. 8-10/2014 would be circulated to members soonest for commenting and it was targeted to publish the amendments by gazette notice in mid-November 2014 for implementation on 29.11.2014.

(Post-meeting note: The revised COP had been circulated to members on 20.10.2014 for comment by 31.10.2014.)

LVAC Paper No. 11/2014 – Subsidy Scheme for Installation of Automatic Identification System (AIS) on Local Passenger Vessels

12. Mr. S. F. WONG briefed members on the details of the subsidy scheme to members, including the application period, the eligibility criteria, the subsidy limit, the application arrangement and the responsibilities to be undertaken by the applicants. He informed members that from 1.11.2014 to the end of this financial year (i.e. 31.3.2015), about 20 Class I vessels would be eligible for applying the subsidy. MD would issue letter to notify these vessels' owners in due course.
13. The Chairman urged owners of all eligible Class I vessels to take swift action to install AIS and tender their applications for subsidy within the application period. Members raised no comments and noted the paper.

IV. New Discussion Item

LVAC Paper No. 12/2014 – Implementation of MARPOL Annex I Amendments on Local Vessels

14. Mr. Y. K. LAI presented the paper on the proposed amendments to the Hong Kong Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Oil Pollution) Regulations (Cap. 413A) to implement the latest requirements of MARPOL Annex I. Members raised no comments and the paper was endorsed.

LVAC Paper No. 13/2014 – Implementation of MARPOL Annex V Amendments on Local Vessels

15. Mr. Y. K. LAI presented the paper on the proposed amendments to the Hong Kong Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) Regulation (Cap. 413J) to implement the requirements of MARPOL Annex V that are applicable to local vessels.
16. The Chairman reminded that the choice of wording should be careful when drafting the revised regulation in order to avoid any misinterpretation of the new requirements. With reference to the wording “voyages to ports or offshore

terminals outside China” in para. 8 of the paper, the Chairman requested a clarification on whether the vessels engaged in voyages to ports or offshore terminals within the Mainland and Macau would be exempted from the requirements for Garbage Record Books. Mr. Y. K. LAI answered that he would follow up on the issue.

17. In response to Mr. PUI Chi-keung’s enquiry on the implementation schedule of the new requirements, Mr. Y. K. LAI replied that MD planned to submit the legislative amendments to the Legislative Council for negative vetting in 2015.
18. Mr. CHEUNG Kwok-wai enquired about the enforcement authority of the new requirements. He also expressed concern on whether there would be exemption or special arrangements under the revised regulations for the joss papers and joss sticks being discharged from vessels into the sea during the rituals of traditional festivals. Mr. Y. K. LAI responded that Cap. 413 was administered by MD. He also clarified that the dumping of joss papers and joss sticks into the sea was also regulated by the Summary Offences Ordinance (Cap. 228). After deliberation, the Chairman advised that the practices of other law enforcement departments and relevant legislation should be made reference to when drafting the revised regulation.
19. Members raised no further comments and the paper was endorsed.

LVAC Paper No.14/2014 – Installation of Awnings on Class III Fishing Sampans and Maximum Crew Allowance for Class III Fishing Vessels

20. Mr. Jimmy LEUNG presented the paper to members. Mr. KEUNG Siu-fai opined that MD should provide a more detailed definition of “detachable” awning and explain clearly to the fishermen and fishing associations in order to avoid disputes. The Chairman advised that clearer guidelines could be drawn up for the purpose. Members endorsed the paper without further comments.

V. Any other Business

21. The Chairman reported that the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) had completed their review on the examination for the Maritime Radio (Local Vessel) Licence. It was understood that simplified syllabus and format of the examination had been effected on 6 October 2014, and relevant training institutions would adjust their course content in accordance with the new syllabus. He urged members to arrange their crew staff to attend the training courses soonest possible. On the other hand, he reminded members that the Very High Frequency radiotelephones equipped on vessels should be one that is recognized by OFCA.
22. Mr. FAN Keung supplemented that the examination had been re-structured into 2 sessions, with the written part being simplified by providing the right numbering

sequence of communication dialogues instead of writing full sentences as in the past. He appreciated that the revised syllabus could be more easily mastered by crew members. The examination format was also more effective in reflecting the genuine abilities and knowledge of the candidates.

23. Owing to the fact that the demand of crew staff for radar training course was on the rise but the provision by local training institutions was limited, the Small Craft Workers Union together with the Hong Kong Seamen's Union would run radar course for local waters starting from mid-October 2014. Mr. FAN introduced that the course would be delivered by retired instructors of the MSTI, and had been approved by MD. He added that the course duration would be about 30 hours (i.e. 4.5 days), covering radar theory, operation of the equipment, simulation of ship handling and collisions prevention, etc. The examination would be separated into two parts: multiple choice and practical assessment (ship simulation). As agreed by THB, crew staff of local commercial vessels with 80% attendance rate could apply for a reimbursement of 80% course fee.
24. In response to Mr. S. F. WONG's enquiry on the frequency of the training course and whether crew staff of local commercial vessels would be given the priority to join the classes, Mr. FAN explained that the Union would normally run a class every 2 to 3 months with a class size of 10 to 14. However, class schedule could be flexible subject to the demand and feedback of the industry. He further pointed out that seats were in general allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. However, the Union would also consider arranging classes exclusively for ferry vessels' operators to cater for their need.
25. Capt. LAM Hong-kwok also briefly introduced the two radar training courses currently provided by the Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI). To cater for the operational need of the industry, MSTI was designing a new elementary radar operator advance course which would be available in due course.
26. The Chairman urged operators to send their coxswains/crew to attend the radar training course at their earliest convenience.
27. Mr. WEN Tsz-kit, Bondy reiterated that the legislation should come into effect only after sufficient crew staff had received relevant training on the use of the navigational equipment. The Chairman appealed to the industry to work together with MD to facilitate the implementation of the requirement of installation of radar in good time.

VI. Date of Next Meeting

28. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:55 p.m. The date of next meeting would be announced in due course.