

## **Local Vessels Advisory Committee**

### **Renewal of Safety Training Certificate of Shipboard Crane Operators**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views on implementing a new requirement when the safety training certificates of shipboard crane operators are renewed.

#### **Backgrounds**

2. Under Section 50 of the Shipping and Port Control (Works) Regulation (Cap 313X) and Section 51 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)(Works) Regulation (Cap 548I) all shipboard crane operators engaged in works carried out on, to, or by means of ocean-going vessels or local vessels as appropriate in the waters of Hong Kong are required to hold a valid certificate of training in respect of the "Shipboard Crane Operator Safety Training Course".

3. Safety training courses were offered to crane operators well in advance of the enactment of the above two regulations so that enough certified crane operators were available when the new regulations were enforced in 2007. The validity of the training certificates was five years.

4. Also, in order to facilitate a smooth implementation of the mandatory safety training requirements, a transitional arrangement was introduced in the early dates of the new regulations allowing crane operators holding previously issued safety training certificates to renew the certificates without refresher training.

5. Since the introduction of the mandatory safety training requirements in 2007, there had been eight fatal accidents connected with the use of shipboard cranes. More efforts are still required to foster the safety awareness of shipboard crane operators. Periodic refresher safety training would be an effective means. It would be opportune to implement a requirement for refresher training before shipboard crane operators can

renew their safety training certificates.

6. The Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI) has been approved to offer a one-day refresher training course for shipboard crane operators and is planning to offer the course one class every month. There are currently about 1,200 safety training certificates issued to shipboard crane operators with about 330, 340 and 240 certificates expiring in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively. The training capacity offered by MSTI should be able to meet the demand of the industry.

### **Proposal**

7. It is proposed that all shipboard crane operators are to attend a one-day refresher training course to brush up their safety knowledge and awareness as a pre-requisite for the renewal of their safety training certificates. The renewed safety training certificate will be valid for another five years. The course outline of the refresher training course is at the **Annex**.

### **Consultation**

8. The above proposal was discussed in the Sub-committee on Safety for Works on Vessels and obtained the full support of its members with representatives of trade associations, worker unions and institutions from the cargo handling operations, seartransport industry, logistic industry and the training sector.

### **Action Requested**

9. Members are invited to comment and endorse the above proposal.

Marine Department  
Shipping Division  
Local Vessels Safety Branch

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## Course Outline

### Refresher Course for Shipboard Crane Operator Safety Training

Module	Major Topics	Minimum Duration
1.	<i>Current developments in works safety legislation and recent trends in crane operation accidents</i>	1 hour
1.1	Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Shipping and Port Control Ordinance, and subsidiary regulations, and other relevant legislation	
1.2	Recent crane operation accident statistics and common causes of accidents	
1.3	Crane operation accident case studies	
2.	<i>Current developments in shipboard crane operation safety practices</i>	2 hour
2.1	Current developments in shipboard cranes and safe working practices	
2.2	Codes of practices and Marine Department Notices issued by Director of Marine relating to shipboard cargo handling and crane operation safety; and other relevant codes of practices and safety guides	
3.	<i>Topics in shipboard crane inspection and maintenance with case studies</i>	1 hour
4.	<i>Emergency preparedness</i>	1 hour
4.1	Emergency procedures	
4.2	Accident reporting	
4.3	First aid facilities	
5.	<i>Discussions and feedbacks</i>	0.5 hour