

**Local Vessels Advisory Committee**

**Proposal to reduce the number of copies of plans  
to be submitted for newly built sister vessels**

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek members' views on the proposal to reduce the number of copies of plans to be submitted for newly built sister vessels.

**Background**

2. Under Section 8 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) Regulation, Cap. 548G, the owner or agent of a local vessel which is a new vessel shall submit 3 copies of each of the plans (i.e. drawings, details, diagrams and calculations) for the approval of the Marine Department.

3. Under the current practice, one copy of each of the approved plans will be retained by the Marine Department for record purpose and the other 2 copies will be returned to the applicant (owner or agent), who in practice will keep one of the copies and provide the other copy to the shipyard for the purpose of construction.

4. For a newly built vessel, the submission of 3 copies of each of the plans to be approved is needed for the purpose as mentioned in paragraph 3. However, if the submission involves a series of newly built sister vessels, it may not be necessary for the owner or agent to submit all 3 copies of each of the plans for each of the vessels. This is because for each of the sister vessels, while one copy of each of the plans is needed to be retained by MD, not all the other 2 copies are required by the owner or shipyard as long as one full set of plans of the original design vessel is made available for the construction of the vessels. Submission of any additional copies of plans is not only a waste of the owner's resources but will also incur unnecessary vetting and delay the plan approval process of the Marine Department.

5. The Sub-committee on Survey Work of Local Vessels discussed the issue at its meeting on 26 May 2010 and agreed to the proposal to reduce the number of copies of plans to be submitted for newly built sister vessels as detailed in paragraph 6 below.

## **Proposal**

6. It is proposed that for newly built vessels involving sister vessels, the submission of plans for the Marine Department's approval is as follows:

- (i) For the original design vessel, the normal submission of 3 copies of each of the plans is required.
- (ii) For two or more sister vessels, only 2 copies of each of the plans of each of the sister vessels may be submitted. The applicant (owner or agent) should make a request to the Marine Department for such submission. After approval has been granted for the plans, one copy of each of the plans will be retained by the Marine Department and the other copy will be returned to the applicant.
- (iii) Having regard to the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Fees) Regulation, Cap. 548J, fees to be paid for consideration of plans will not be reduced, notwithstanding that less than the normally required 3 copies of each of the plans are submitted for consideration.

7. As the proposal involves change in compliance with the regulations, the exemption of the Director of Marine may have to be sought in accordance with Section 69 of the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) Ordinance, Cap. 548.

## **Action requested**

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

Marine Department  
Shipping Division  
Local Vessels Safety Branch

27 July 2010