

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Enhancement Measures for Examination

Purpose

This paper aims to consult the Committee on the proposed change in measures for examination with a view to reducing the time required for local crew to attain relevant qualifications.

Relevant Information

2. The information is as follows:
 - 2.1 Annex 1: Shortening the Sea Service Time Required for Taking Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate Examination and Revising the Number of Examination Questions;
 - 2.2 Annex 2: Introducing a Validity Period for Pass Results of Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate Examination and Revising the Number of Examination Questions;
 - 2.3 Annex 3: Shortening the Waiting Time for Examination; and
 - 2.4 Annex 4: Changes of the Eyesight Examination Service and Certification of Eyesight Standards

3. At the meeting of the Joint Sub-committee on Class I and Class IV Vessels held on 20 February 2014, members agreed on the direction of the above annexes.

Implementation Schedule

4. Subject to members' endorsement, the proposed measures can be implemented in the third quarter of 2014 after amendments to the examination rules have been made.

**Shortening the Sea Service Time Required for
Taking Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate Examination and
Adjusting the Number of Examination Questions**

Class of Certificate	Item Outline
Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate	<p>(1) The sea service time required on mechanised vessels other than pleasure vessels before candidates are eligible to take the examination for the Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate is to be shortened from 12 months to 9 months in view of their having completed the preparatory maritime course. For service time on non-mechanised cargo vessels or on pleasure vessels whilst holding pleasure vessel certificate of competency, it is to be shortened from 24 months to 18 months.</p> <p>(2) The number of multiple choice questions to be answered within the 50-minute examination for the Coxswain Grade 3 Certificate is to be cut from 50 to 40 to allow candidates more time to answer the questions. The pass mark will still be 70%.</p>

**Introducing a Validity Period for Pass Results of
Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate Examination and
Adjusting the Number of Examination Questions**

Class of Certificate	Item Outline
Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate	<p>(1) Part A of the examination for Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate consists of two sections, namely multiple choice questions and practical chart work. For candidates who fail in only one of the sections, their pass results are to remain valid for two years and they will only be required to retake the examination for the section they fail during the two-year period.</p> <p>(2) The number of multiple choice questions to be answered within the 40-minute examination for the Coxswain Grade 2 Certificate is to be cut from 40 to 30 to allow candidates more time to answer the questions. The pass mark will still be 70%.</p>

Shortening the Waiting Time for Examination

Class of Certificate	Item Outline
Any Coxswain or Engine Operator Certificates	(1) Applications for examination should be accepted three months before applicants are eligible for taking examinations. However, if applicants could not take the examinations for personal reasons after submitting their applications, the examination fee will not be refunded.

Eyesight Examination Service and Certification of Eyesight Standards

Class of Certificate	Item Outline
Eyesight Examination Service and Certification of Eyesight Standards	Applicants must produce a certificate of attainment of the eyesight standards required by the Marine Department (MD) and issued by a medical practitioner registered with the Medical Council of Hong Kong or an optometrist registered with the Optometrists Board. The eyesight examination service provided by MD will be terminated at the end of 2014.