

## LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Proposed Modification for the Cancellation or Postponement Arrangements for the Examination of Local Vessel Operators

#### Purpose

This paper sets out the proposed amendments to the Examination Rules for Pleasure Vessel Operator Certificate of Competency<sup>1</sup> (the PV Rules) and the Examination Rules for Local Certificates of Competency<sup>2</sup> (the Local Rules) for the arrangement on cancellation or postponement of the examination.

#### Background

##### 2. Cancellation or postponement of examination

(i) According to paragraph 5.4.4 of the PV Rules and paragraph 5.2.4 of the Local Rules, a candidate may cancel or postpone the taking of an examination by advising the Director by written notice that must be received by the Director at least five (5) working days before the day appointed for the examination. Only one postponement of an examination will be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances warranting a second postponement.

(ii) Currently, paragraph 5.4.3.2(b) of the PV Rules and paragraph 5.2.3(2)(a) of the Local Rules states no part of the fee paid by the candidate in respect of the examination shall be refunded unless the candidate produces a medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner certifying his inability to attend the examination. However, the period of this medical certificate to be provided is not specified in both Rules.

(iii) Although the seats vacated from the postponement or cancellation will be available for other candidates, the take-up rate for these vacated seats is usually low because most candidates booked their examination date about three to five months ago.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\\_services/pdf/examrules\\_ploc.pdf](https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/pdf/examrules_ploc.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\\_services/pdf/examrules\\_lv.pdf](https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/pdf/examrules_lv.pdf)

## **Proposal**

3. After a review on the examination arrangement for all local certificates of competency (“CoCs”) to reduce the absence rate of candidates, MD proposes two measures as follows:

(a) Cancellation or postponement of examination

To increase the minimum period of notification from five (5) working days to ten (10) working days for cancellation or postponement so that the vacated seats have more chance to be filled. Application to reschedule appointment due to absence of attending a scheduled examination on medical ground must be submitted with the medical certificate within two weeks from the day appointed for the examination. Failing to do so, candidates will be regarded as having failed the examination;

(b) Barred from attending the examination

Any candidates absent from an examination without prior notification at least ten (10) working days before the day appointed for the examination (including absence on medical ground but failing to submit medical report) will be placed on the barred list. Reschedule appointments due to medical ground or re-apply due to failure to attend an examination without prior notice will be arranged according to the end-of-list appointment date of the specific examination type and the one postponement/bring forward arrangement (i.e. seats vacated by other candidates state in paragraph 2(iii)) will also be terminated for those candidates on the barred list.

## **Advice sought**

4. Members are invited to give their views on the proposed amendments set out in paragraph 3. The relevant parts of the PV Rules and the Local Rules will be amended accordingly.

Shipping Division  
Marine Department  
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