

Information Paper

LOCAL VESSELS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Transitional Period for Provision of Lifejackets on Local Vessels and
the Subsidy Scheme**

Purpose

This information paper reminds Members of the ending of both the transitional period and the subsidy scheme on 22 December 2021 for the provision of lifejacket on local vessels. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Background

2. The Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Safety and Survey) (Amendment) Regulation 2019 (“Amendment Regulation”) which strengthens the requirements for provision of lifejackets on board local vessels stipulates that, with the exception of certain vessels, all local vessels are required to carry on board suitable lifejackets, the quantity of which must be not less than the total number of persons which the vessel is licensed to carry. Besides, all Class I vessels, as well as all Class IV vessels which carry more than 12 passengers and are let for hire/reward must have on board infant lifejackets, the quantity of which must not be less than 2.5% of the number of passengers that the vessel is licensed to carry.

Transitional Period Ends on 22 December 2021

3. The Amendment Regulation was enacted in 2019. In order to provide trade with adequate time for preparation, a two-year transitional period starting from 23 December 2019 was introduced, during which a local vessel meeting the former requirements will also be accepted to be in compliance with the Amendment Regulation. In other words, the transitional period will end on 22 December 2021.

4. To assist the trade to procure suitable lifejackets to meet the new legislative requirements under the Amendment Regulation, a subsidy scheme is introduced to provide financial support to ship owners of local commercial passenger

carrying vessels to procure Common Lifejackets and/or child lifejackets. Application period for the subsidy scheme is from 23 December 2019 to 22 December 2021.

5. For details of the requirements on providing lifejackets on board, please refer to sections 5 to 7, Part I, Schedule 3 of Cap.548G. For details of the subsidy scheme, please refer to Marine Department Notice No. 198/2019.

Way Forward

6. Members are invited to note both the above transitional period and subsidy scheme will end on 22 December 2021.

Marine Department
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